DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Dalai Lama wins Grammy for spoken word album

Indian artistes draw a blank; Bad Bunny wins Album of the Year

Page 11

Gaza truce enters new phase with Rafah crossing reopening

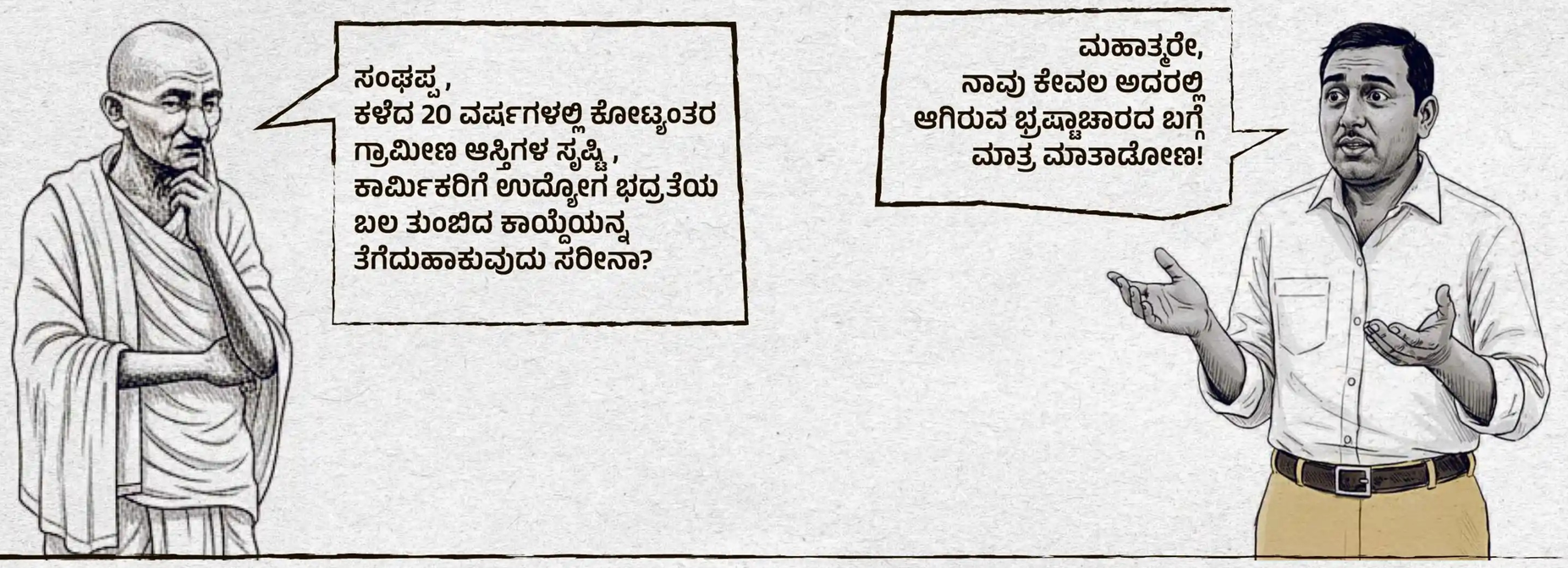
Page 11

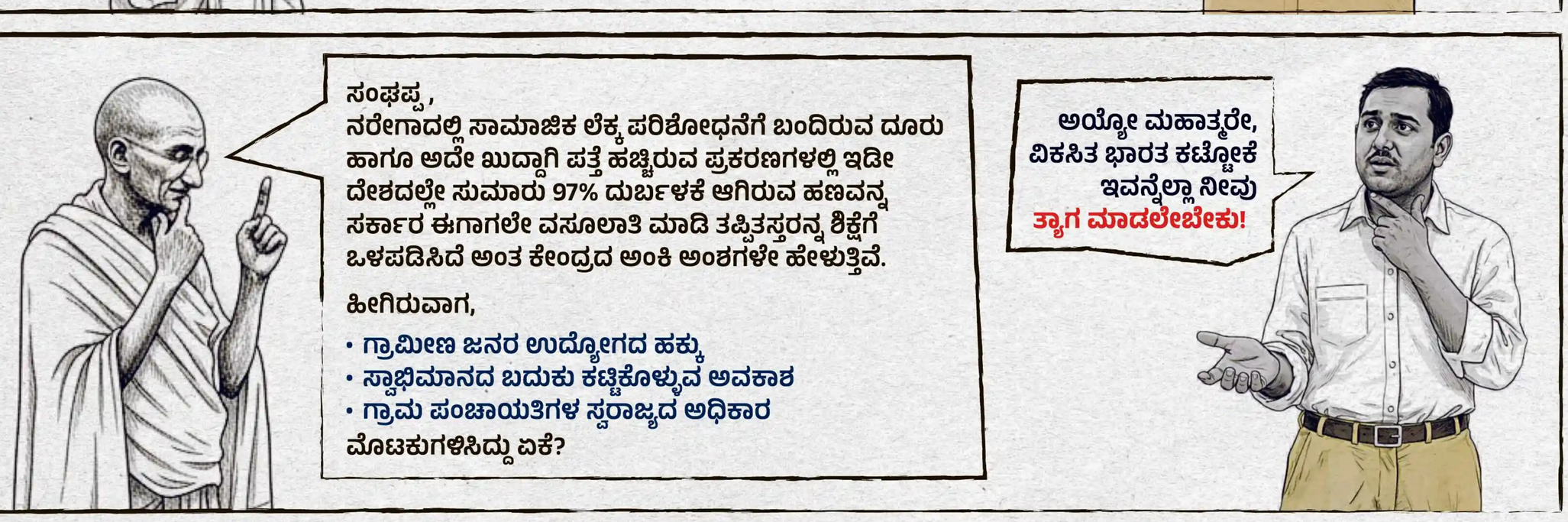
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಮಹಾತ್ಮಾ ಗಾಂಧಿ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಖಾತ್ರಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯ 20 ವರ್ಷಗಳು

2 ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ 2006 - ಇಂದು

ಭಾರತ	ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ **4,420 ಕೋಟಿ+** ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ದಿನಗಳ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿ	ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ **182.55 ಕೋಟಿ+** ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ದಿನಗಳ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿ
ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ **9.57 ಕೋಟಿ+** ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಆಸ್ತಿಗಳ ಸೃಜನೆ	ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ **76.89 ಲಕ್ಷ+** ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಆಸ್ತಿಗಳ ಸೃಜನೆ


ಸಂಘಪ್ಪ ,
ಕಳೆದ 20 ವರ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೋಟ್ಯಂತರ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಆಸ್ತಿಗಳ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿ , ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಭದ್ರತೆಯ ಬಲ ತುಂಬಿದ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯನ್ನ ತೆಗೆದುಹಾಕುವುದು ಸರೀನಾ?
ಮಹಾತ್ಮರೇ, ನಾವು ಕೇವಲ ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಆಗಿರುವ ಭ್ರಷ್ಟಾಚಾರದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಮಾತಾಡೋಣ!


ಸಂಘಪ್ಪ ,
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ಹೀಗಿರುವಾಗ,
• ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಜನರ ಉದ್ಯೋಗದ ಹಕ್ಕು
• ಸ್ವಾಭಿಮಾನದ ಬದುಕು ಕಟ್ಟಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಅವಕಾಶ
• ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿಗಳ ಸ್ವರಾಜ್ಯದ ಅಧಿಕಾರ
ಮೊಟಕುಗಳಿಸಿದ್ದು ಏಕೆ?
ಅಯ್ಯೋ ಮಹಾತ್ಮರೇ, ವಿಕಸಿತ ಭಾರತ ಕಟ್ಟೋಕೆ ಇವನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ನೀವು ತ್ಯಾಗ ಮಾಡಲೇಬೇಕು!

ದೇಶದ ಕೋಟ್ಯಂತರ ಜನರ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ & ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಭದ್ರತೆಯ ಅಡಿಪಾಯವಾಗಿರುವ ಮನರೇಗಾ ಯೋಜನೆ

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ: ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ

Recognise the lurking hurt behind the attitude

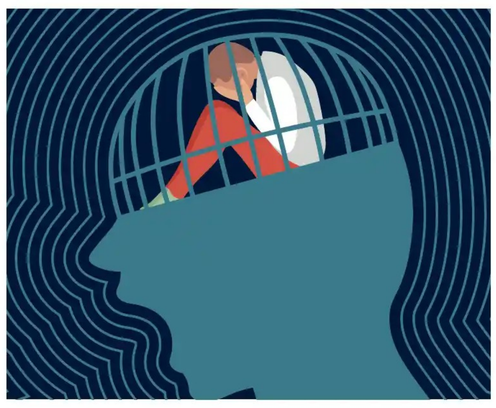
JOHN J KENNEDY

Teaching teens has never been easy. They are in a phase of life filled with emotional ups and downs, figuring out who they are, and wrestling with struggles they don't always talk about. The pandemic didn't just disrupt school. It shook their whole world. Routines vanished, friendships shifted, and that sense of safety so many kids rely on just wasn't there anymore.

Add to that parents who are ever busy and can't always be present, the complexities of modern families, and the constant buzz of social media. It's no wonder the classroom has changed dramatically today. Now it is not just a place for lessons anymore; it's where teaching, listening, guiding, and caring all meet. However, it can feel very uncomfortable for many teachers.

Yes, teachers are expected to do it all: cover the material, keep the class on track, instil good values, and somehow also be a soft-landing spot for students who are hurting. It is a huge task. Sometimes it feels almost impossible. However, the truth is, when a student acts out or seems rude, it's not really about defiance. It's pain showing up in the only way they know how.

I learned this early on in my career. There was a student in one of my first classes—incredibly bright, but constantly causing disruptions. At first, I just saw him as difficult. After yet another



outburst, instead of another public reprimand, I asked him to meet me after class. He was guarded, even arrogant, at first. But slowly, he began to talk. His parents had split up, his mother had remarried, and a man he had long known as a family friend was now his stepdad. He missed his biological father terribly and was struggling to accept his new reality. I could not fix his family situation, but I could listen. That one conversation changed how I saw him, and slowly, it changed how he behaved in class, too.

That experience taught me something crucial: often, a teenager's behaviour is their way of saying, "I'm not okay." We cannot solve every problem they bring to us, but we can notice. We can acknowledge their pain. We can respond with empathy. And that recognition alone can change things, for them and for us.

So, what do we do when we are faced with a student who seems troubled or just hard to reach?

- **Start with connection, not correction:** Rules matter, but they should not be your first move. Teens respond when they feel seen and heard. A private conversation, away from their peers, protects their dignity and builds trust. They might be defensive at first, but patience usually pays off. Once that defensive wall comes down, many are eager to be heard.
- **Know your role and its limits too:** We are teachers, not therapists or saviours. Trying to "fix" a student's personal life can lead to burnout. What we can offer is a safe space, a listening ear, and steady support. Referring a student to a counsellor when it's needed isn't a failure; it's responsible teaching.
- **Make room for feelings in the classroom:** Small things make a difference. Reflective writing, thoughtful discussions, stories that mirror, and real-life struggles let students explore emotions indirectly. Even in subjects like math or science, you can foster collaboration, dialogue, and respect. When students feel emotionally settled, they learn better.
- **Don't forget to care for yourself:** Supporting teens in distress day after day is definitely draining. Schools need to recognise this by creating spaces for teachers to talk, offering training in adolescent psychology, and providing access to support. You cannot pour from an empty cup.
- **Make learning connect to their lives:** Teens disengage not because they can't focus, but because traditional pedagogies often feel disconnected from their reality. Connect and relate the subject to real-world issues, current events, and ethical questions. Use projects, group work, and storytelling to channel their energy into something meaningful.

Above all, remember, students are constantly watching how teachers handle situations. When you listen without judging, correct without shaming, and stay kind even when firm, you are teaching them how to be human in a complicated world. The classroom today is more than just a place to finish a syllabus.

Importantly, it reflects our world, with all its brokenness, digital noise, loneliness, and uncertainty. And, teachers are on the front lines of that harsh reality. The burden, of course, can be heavy, but the impact also is profound.

That student from years ago taught me an important lesson: a single moment of understanding can change a young person's path. Teaching teens today isn't just about knowing the subject. It's about empathy, patience, and support, for them and for ourselves. When we get that balance right, even the most difficult classroom can become a place where healing and learning grow, together.

(The author is a former professor and dean of a Bengaluru-based university)

Making libraries stay relevant

Libraries should evolve according to the times we live in, and help curate experiences for students, writes Anitha Ramachander

Once considered essential spaces, libraries are now empty at several universities. Students use them to avoid lectures or to avoid penalties for off-campus activities. Universities invest in resources in response to accrediting bodies and ranking processes. When students do not use these resources effectively, they are less likely to recognise the value of upgrading them.

The question is: how can we revitalise libraries? How do we make students understand the importance of libraries? Some students still believe libraries are the best place to expand their knowledge. But we cannot ignore the gap between an institution's total enrollment and its library usage. Very few of them read articles or want to explore beyond the lectures using books these days.

We see young people graduating without gaining value through a variety of books. They are not curious about checking the footnotes or references mentioned under the topics discussed in lectures. Assignments have become easier with the advent of technology. Curiosity fades, and real education suffers.

The global trends in managing libraries

The libraries at top universities worldwide are vibrant learning centres that engage students in academic and cultural activities. The Bodleian Libraries at the University of Oxford are among the oldest and largest scholarly library systems, featuring an extensive collection of books and manuscripts. They offer free exhibitions, guided tours, and a range of classes and workshops that inspire students of all ages. Students can access rare collections and research skills through these libraries.

At Stanford's Green Library, Students can explore exhibitions and participate in guided tours of special collections, as well as in workshops on research tools and techniques. They attend campus arts and learning events that bring academic resources to life outside the classroom.

The Maughan Library at King's College London promotes engagement with cultural heritage and educational research by providing students with digital collections, curated displays from special and archive collections, and impressive exhibitions in the historic Weston Room.

Students can access study rooms, attend orientations and research consultations, and engage in academic and wellness activities at the University of Toronto's Robarts Library, which functions as a central academic hub in Canada and enhances the student experience both inside and outside the library.

Other common approaches used by institutions worldwide include cross-campus marketing, hosting author talks and cultural events, and offering specialised workshops on research methods and citation management. These practices highlight the library's vital role as an essential academic partner.

What should our libraries do?

In Indian university libraries, there is a struggle because they are still regarded as repositories rather than academic centres. There is a gap between how librarians perceive their role and how students and faculty understand their purpose in the university. This perception weakens engagement, underutilises resources, and results in inadequate usage of libraries.

Libraries must adapt to the evolving higher education system in India to preserve their essential role. They can host practical workshops to improve academic writing, hone research skills, and help students identify misinformation, thereby becoming the centres of campus education.

Libraries can also participate in student events, offer welcoming tours for newcomers, connect with students online, and share advice in newsletters as creative ways to engage with campus life.

Libraries should have a wide range of books beyond those listed in the curriculum, and, as abroad, they should have dedicated websites showcasing their collections and activities to encourage and engage students and faculty.

Imagine the confidence students gain after a lesson on locating reliable sources or mastering citations. But students are not the only ones who gain. The faculty, staff, and university administrators can learn about new ways the library supports research and learning.

Today libraries can keep pace with changing educational landscape, offering everything from digital databases and e-books to group study spaces and sophisticated data analysis tools. It is easier to collaborate and set higher goals when everyone on campus is aware of the library's offerings.

Libraries must adapt to changing times and learn lessons from universities abroad. They can be curated as popular spots on campus by creating welcoming spaces, comfy chairs, and a friendly atmosphere. Libraries can once again be the true heart of university life through active engagement and attentive listening. Buildings and shiny brochures are not the real assets of a university. The key is to capture students' interest. Learning happens when books are read, not just stored on shelves.

Lastly, a message to students: Remember the words of Jeanette Winterson, "Books and doors are the same thing. You open them, and you go through into another world." Stay curious to learn beyond textbooks. Students should realise that a library is a space where they can independently explore a variety of books. By researching and choosing books, you learn to make decisions that help shape a better future.

Building a career in Population Studies

VIJAY PRAKASH SRIVASTAVA

India's 16th census is going to begin from April this year. A census is an official survey of a country's population conducted to enumerate its population and collect data on age, gender distribution, education, and employment.

A country is identified by its demographics. Various economic indicators are used to measure a nation's performance. Determinants of these parameters include income, savings, health conditions and well-being of individuals and households in the country. The importance of population studies is evident in this context.

Population study is a social science subject. Undergraduate and postgraduate curricula in anthropology, economics, geography and sociology may include this study. Population science can also be studied as an independent, full-fledged course at the higher education level.

Population studies involve analysing human populations and their characteristics and changes over time. They help us understand the causes and consequences of population change. The findings from these studies form the basis for policy formulation in education, housing, healthcare, rural/urban planning, and environmental protection. They are also used to develop policies to address inequality, poverty, and unemployment, as they provide the basis for evidence-based strategies to meet the needs and address the challenges of changing populations.

The subject investigates the interconnectedness between population dynamics and economic and social outcomes. For example, population ageing calls for higher outlays for social welfare and healthcare demands.

Topics under a postgraduate course in population studies usually include introduc-

tion to demography, population sociology, mortality and morbidity, economics of population, fertility-theories and determinants, population and development, migration, urbanisation, relation between population and environment, gender issues and reproductive health, population policies and programmes, aging and health transition, collection, evaluation and analysis of population data, sampling and research methods, using computer applications and AI in demographics etc.

However, Population Studies isn't only about data. AI has applicability in population studies, but only to a limited extent. It can support data and trend analysis. However, in policy-making, budgeting, and resource allocation for specific segments of the population, human interventions and insights take centre stage.

Where to study?

A dedicated institution for the study of population science, named the International Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS), was established in our country in July 1956. Situated in Mumbai, the Institute is now a deemed university. Its offerings include an MA/MSc in Population Studies, an MSc in Biostatistics and Demography, and Doctoral and Postdoctoral programmes. Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, conducts M.Sc. Economics (Population Studies and Health Economics).

The Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata, has a Population Studies Unit that conducts research on various population parameters, including mortality, migration characteristics, and life contingencies.

Master's courses in population studies are taught at several universities in India. Indira Gandhi National Open University offers a distance-learning MA course in Population and Family Health Studies.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has established a network of 18 Population Research Centres spread across 16 states to provide critical research-based inputs on health and family welfare programmes and policies at the national and sub-national levels. Of these, 12 are affiliated with universities, and six operate as independent research units. Dharwad in Karnataka has one such centre. Regular and project-based work opportunities are available at the research centres listed above.

Statistical methods, research and quantitative techniques have wide applicability in population studies. Students of subjects such as statistics, quantitative economics, and econometrics may choose to pursue population studies at the higher education and research levels.

Also, students pursuing (or having completed) a master's degree in economics, social work, sociology, public policy, or development studies and keen to pursue a PhD, may take up a population-related theme for their research. Population studies are included in the UGC NET subject list.

Work opportunities

Employment and work opportunities exist with entities such as NITI Aayog, the National Sample Survey Organisation, the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and Population Research Centres under the Department of Health and Family Welfare.

Population Studies has universal academic appeal. Many foreign universities also offer teaching and research opportunities in the subject. Those interested in academics can look forward to teaching the subject at universities, including IIPS, ISI, Dr B R Ambedkar School of Economics, University of Bengaluru, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru, and social science departments at IITs, NITs, IIMs, etc. The Indian Institute of Human Settlements in Bengaluru, also a deemed university, offers study, research, and teaching opportunities in population-related themes.

With some experience and exposure, one can explore opportunities at international organisations such as UNICEF, UNFPA, and WHO. The World Bank regularly releases data on population size, growth, and composition for countries worldwide. The United Nations Population Division publishes reports on population trends and projections. In addition to these well-known organisations, opportunities may also come from the International Labour Organisation.

The National Programme on Technology-Enhanced Learning has developed a few modules on population studies, which are freely accessible. It would be advisable to review a few of these to see if the subject interests you.

(The author is a human resource development professional)

Write to us:
dheducation@deccanherald.co.in

Study highlights key barriers to student success

A recent academic study has identified major obstacles that continue to hinder the well-being and academic success of first-year university students, despite targeted efforts to support them.

The research, conducted at a historically disadvantaged university in South Africa, examined the effects of a redesigned academic literacy programme that aimed to create a more supportive, "care-full" learning environment for undergraduate students. The study focused on how well-being—defined as students' emotional health and academic functioning—was affected by this approach, particularly in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Researchers found that while educators had implemented several supportive measures in the module, including assignment guides, additional resources, structured discussions on time management, regular reminders, and closer engagement with students, many learners continued to struggle with core challenges.

According to the study's analysis, three primary impediments prevented students from fully benefiting from the care provided:

- **Access to and use of resources:** Many students lacked reliable access to essential tools such as laptops and stable internet connections. Even when resources were available, students often struggled with navigating institutional learning systems and technology effectively.
- **Organisation and time management:** Students reported ongoing difficulties in managing coursework deadlines and balancing academic demands with other responsibilities, a problem exacerbated by the less-structured online learning environment experienced during the pandemic.
- **Anxiety and feelings of inadequacy:** The study highlighted that students' anxiety and self-doubt about their academic abilities often discouraged them from seeking help or engaging fully with learning resources and support structures.

The authors conclude that while "care-full" teaching practices are crucial, they are not sufficient in themselves. The study suggests that student well-being and success require active engagement from both educators and students, supported by broader institutional and societal measures to address underlying barriers.

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BULLETIN BOARD

Applications invited

The Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) has invited applications for admission to various Undergraduate, Postgraduate, and Diploma/Certificate courses for the academic year 2025–26 (January Cycle). Applications can be submitted online through the university website www.ksoumysuru.ac.in. Eligible female students with BPL cards, children of military/ex-servicemen, auto-rickshaw drivers and KSRTC employees are entitled to a 10% fee concession. Full fee waiver is available for children of parents deceased due to Covid-19, transgender and visually impaired students, while SC, ST, and Backwards Class students are eligible for SSP scholarships. Contact: 9632332265 ksoubengalururc06@gmail.com

J N Tata Endowment Awards

The JN Tata Endowment Loan Scholarship is inviting applications from Indian students pursuing full-time postgraduate, doctoral or post-doctoral studies abroad. Applicants must be Indian citizens aged ≤45 years with a graduate degree (60%+ average) from a recognised Indian university; final-year students awaiting results may also apply before March 15 on https://t.ly/ITuEU

Export sales internship

DeliFro Food Private Limited is hiring an export sales intern who can work from home. Students with knowledge of Email Marketing, Cold Calling, Data Extraction, Effective Communication, Marketing Automation, Marketing Campaigns, MS Excel, and Time Management can apply by February 27. The stipend is Rs 6,000 / month. Apply at: https://tinyurl.com/5evdpkbj.

E-Commerce internship

Spectrum Wellness is hiring an e-commerce intern who can work remotely. Students with knowledge of AI Image Generation, Social Media Marketing, UI and UX Design, Attention to Detail, and Effective Communication can apply by February 20. The stipend is Rs 4,000-7,000/month. Apply at: https://tinyurl.com/3vk4e93c.

Equity analyst internship

Money Stories Finserve is hiring an equity analyst intern in Bangalore. Students with MS Excel proficiency can apply by February 26. The stipend is Rs 4,000-7,000 /month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/n3J3V.

Operations support internship

Qapita - CapTable and ESOP Management Platform is hiring an operations support intern in Bangalore. Students with knowledge of Client Relationship Management and KYC can apply by February 28. The stipend is Rs 15,000 - 20,000/ month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/4wNxF.

Bengaluru Tuesday, February 3, 2026 Pages 16 Vol 79 No 34 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Mamata brings fight against SIR to Delhi

Confronts cops, EC; storms out of meeting

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I'm not a helpless Chief Minister, says Siddaramaiah P.4

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Trump announces India trade deal; Modi thanks tariff cut

After phone call with Modi, US Prez says rate to come down from 25% to 18%

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

President Donald Trump on Monday spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and announced on Truth Social a trade deal, which would lead to Washington lowering the reciprocal tariff on India from 25% to 18%, and New Delhi abolishing the tariffs and non-tariff barriers on imports from the United States.

Modi took to X to convey his "big thanks" to Trump for lowering the tariff on India's exports to the US to 18%. The PM, however, did not mention any trade deal in his social media post, unlike the US president. New Delhi's envoy to Washington, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, however, confirmed on social media that the India-US trade deal had been announced.

Trump did not clarify in his post whether Washington would also withdraw the additional 25% tariff on India's exports to the US, imposed in August 2025, to dissuade New Delhi from buying oil from Russia.

A spokesperson for the US embassy in New Delhi, however, confirmed that the final tariff on imports from India would be reduced to 18%.

Trump and his aides had earlier accused India of helping President Vladimir Putin carry on the war in Ukraine by continuing to import Russian oil. They had accused India of circumventing the sanctions imposed by the US and the European Union on Russia after Moscow launched the war against Ukraine in February 2022.

The US president, however, had repeatedly claimed that he succeeded in persuading the Indian PM to slash oil imports from Russia. He had also claimed recently that Washington and New Delhi already had a deal for India to buy oil from Venezuela, now under the control of the US, instead of purchasing from Iran.

Trump on Monday said that Modi had agreed not only to stop buying oil from Russia but also to import hydrocarbons in larger quantities from the US, and potentially, Venezuela, instead. The PM also committed that India would buy energy, technology, coal, agricultural and many other products worth over $500 billion from the US, he claimed.

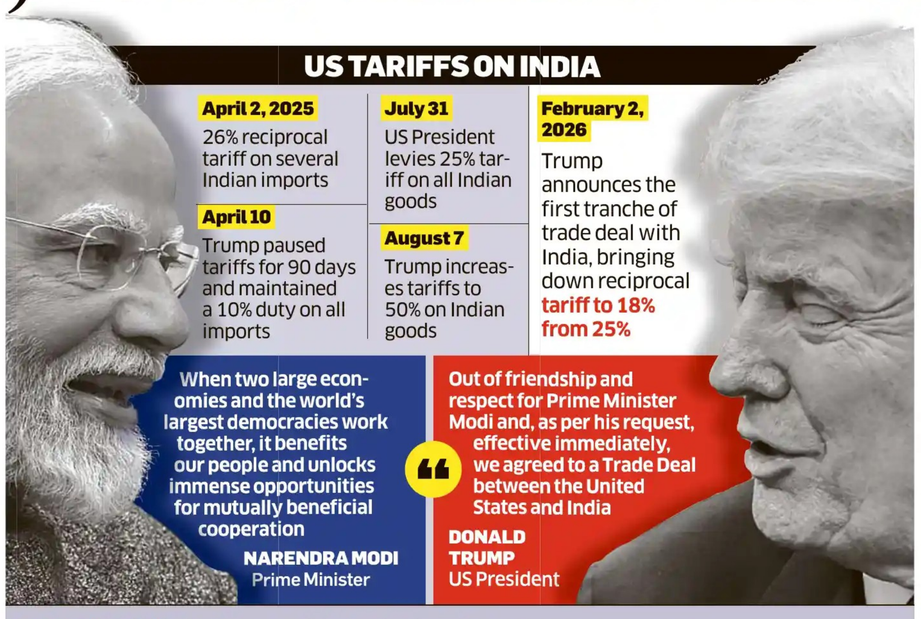
"Out of friendship and respect for Prime Minister Modi and, as per his request, effective immediately, we agreed to a Trade Deal between the United States and India," Trump wrote on the social media platform.

"This (India's decision to stop buying oil from Russia) will help END THE WAR in Ukraine, which is taking place right now, with thousands of people dying each and every week!" the US president posted on Truth Social.

In response, Modi took to X. "Big thanks to President Trump on behalf of the 1.4 billion people of India for this wonderful announcement," he posted. "When two large economies and the world's largest democracies work together, it benefits our people and unlocks immense opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation."

Modi also stated that the US president's leadership was vital for global peace, stability, and prosperity. "India fully supports his efforts for peace. I look forward to working closely with him to take our partnership to unprecedented heights," the PM added.

▸ Trump, Page 5


US TARIFFS ON INDIA
April 2, 2025
26% reciprocal tariff on several Indian imports
April 10
Trump paused tariffs for 90 days and maintained a 10% duty on all imports
July 31
US President levies 25% tariff on all Indian goods
August 7
Trump increases tariffs to 50% on Indian goods
February 2, 2026
Trump announces the first tranche of trade deal with India, bringing down reciprocal tariff to 18% from 25%
When two large economies and the world's largest democracies work together, it benefits our people and unlocks immense opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation
NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister
Out of friendship and respect for Prime Minister Modi and, as per his request, effective immediately, we agreed to a Trade Deal between the United States and India
DONALD TRUMP
US President

50% tariff structure on Indian goods

The US tariff on India currently totals 50% on most exports, combining a 10% baseline duty, a **25% reciprocal tariff** (announced on April 2, 2025), and an additional 25% tariff effective August 27, 2025. Unlike **China (30%)** or **Vietnam** and the **Philippines (20%), India** and **Brazil** have the highest tariff rate among major US trade partners

Multiple hurdles in the past

Trump's announcement to reduce the 'reciprocal tariff' on imports from India from 25% to 18% comes nearly a year after the unveiling of a trade deal. The announcement of the Bilateral Trade Agreement was made on February 13 last year, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington. Formal negotiations began in March 2025 with a target of concluding the first tranche of the deal by September-October. However, progress was hampered by the Trump administration's unilateral decision to impose high tariffs, which negatively impacted the talks.
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Cong attacks govt

The Congress targeted the government over the Indo-US trade deal announcement by President Trump, claiming that PM Modi has "capitulated finally" and insisting this "cannot be the father of all deals". Congress General Secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh said the US president "clearly has some leverage" over the PM.
Details on Page 9

BDA gets Rs 2,097 cr from plot sale

Live bidding fetches Rs 468 cr more than estimates

DH SPECIAL

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

In a single transaction, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has raised a whopping Rs 2,097 crore by auctioning a 52-acre commercial plot in Konadasapura, off Old Madras Road.

With the e-auction stretching beyond 20 rounds, even major players struggled to stay afloat during the intense live bidding, which ultimately fetched Rs 468 crore more than the BDA's original estimates.

> We encouraged major players to participate by ensuring transparency in live bidding and widely publicising the e-auction. And the result is there for everyone to see.
>
> **A SENIOR BDA OFFICIAL**

This also marks a rare move, as the authority, for the first time, auctioned commercial land going beyond its usual mandate of dealing with residential sites.

A total of five bidders, including Brigade Group and Godrej Properties, participated in the live bidding for the property, which has an 80-ft road on one side and the Hoskote–Whitefield Road on the other.

At the end, Hyderabad-based Srini Nirman Pvt Ltd quoted Rs 2,097 crore, which translates to Rs 98,466 per sq metre or Rs 40.13 crore per acre.

The 52-acre land parcel — the BDA had proposed to set up a steel yard on the plot around two decades ago but found no takers for the project — was among three properties listed by the development authority for live auction on January 5.

▸ BDA, Page 5

Furore in LS as Rahul refers to ex-Army chief's 'memoir'

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi faced off with top Union ministers in the Lok Sabha on Monday as he attempted to quote from the unpublished 'memoir' of former Army chief General MM Naravane that purportedly raised questions about the Modi government's handling of the 2020 border crisis with China in eastern Ladakh.

The Lower House called it a day a little after 4 pm due to frequent disruptions, as Rahul insisted on referring to General Naravane's 'memoir' during his speech on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address and said the Treasury Benches should allow him to "read" from the book if they are "not scared".

Countering this, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh accused the Congress leader of "misleading" the House and asked him whether the book was published.

Rahul Gandhi

The furore erupted after Rahul mentioned 'Four Stars of Destiny', whose publication has been put on hold subject to the Defence Ministry's review. Naravane has said that the issue is now between the publisher and the government. Rahul was referring to an article in 'The Caravan', which purportedly cited the retired Army chief's claims.

▸ Rahul, Page 5

Set up tribunal on TN-K'taka Pennaiyar dispute: SC

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the setting up of a water disputes tribunal to resolve the Pennaiyar river issue between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and N V Anjaria issued the directions to the Centre for forming the tribunal under the Inter State River Water Disputes Act, 1956.

The court had on December 19, 2025 wrapped up the hearing as the Centre submitted that there was no consensus on resolving the dispute. Karnataka sought one more round of talks but the court did not agree to it.

Details on Page 5

14-yr-old boy falls into open BWSSB chamber, dies

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 14-year-old boy died after falling into a valve chamber left open by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) near Kaggalipura on Kanakapura Road.

The boy, identified as Preetham R, is said to have gone missing on January 28.

"He left home around 9.30 am and we assumed that he had gone out to play. When he did not return even in the evening, we searched for him everywhere and then filed a police complaint. We assumed he was angry with us and would return soon," the boy's father Rajinikanth told *DH*, alleging that none of the police officers responded to their request to search for the boy.

The boy's body was found floating in the chamber, which was about 5 to 10 feet deep, on Sunday, he said.

According to the police, Preetham was walking along the pipeline road stretch when he is suspected to have accidentally slipped into the uncovered concrete chamber at the site where water board was carrying out some works.

The chamber had reportedly been left open without safety barricades or warning signs.

Family members have alleged gross negligence on the part of the BWSSB, blaming the lack of basic safety measures at the work site for the accident.

They have demanded strict action against officials.

▸ BWSSB, Page 5

CJ Roy death case: No note or diary found, says SIT

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Special Investigation Team (SIT), probing the death of Confident Group chairman CJ Roy, has found no death note or any diary at the crime scene, and preliminary evidence points to a clear case of suicide, a senior officer said.

The officer told *DH* that a pistol and a live cartridge were found under the chair inside Roy's office cabin, and investigators found no signs of forcible entry or the presence of outsiders before the incident.

No suicide note was recovered during the spot inspection, and a more than 48-hour search was conducted to gather evidence, including CCTV footage.

The SIT has been given a free hand to probe the case to ascertain the circumstances that led Roy to take the extreme step, the officer added.

As part of the investigation, the officials are likely to question Roy's family members, including his wife, who is said to have detailed knowledge of his financial records and business affairs.

The SIT officials have recorded statements from officials of the Income Tax.

Officials said the call detail record will help track Roy's phone calls, including his last calls and numbers with which he was in frequent contact, to reconstruct events leading up to his death.

▸ Roy, Page 5

T20I WC: No India-Pak game could cost ₹2.2k cr

Pakistan caused a massive flutter in world cricket by announcing that their team would boycott marquee T20 World Cup clash against India in Colombo on February 15

1 While the decision in itself wasn't totally unexpected as Pakistan kept delaying the confirmation of their participation in the event following Bangladesh's withdrawal, the financial implications of the development have left all the stakeholders in a spot.

2 If Pakistan remain adamant, what are the implications for media rights holder JioStar, already in talks with ICC to renegotiate a $3 billion deal after revenue hit following Indian government's ban on betting apps? While India, England and Australia are self sustainable, other countries, including Pakistan, face crippling financial crunch.

Rs 2,200 cr	Rs 250 cr	Rs 330 cr	Rs 45,000 cr
Estimated revenue from an India-Pakistan match including from broadcast deals	Estimated loss to host broadcaster is per match	Pakistan's current annual revenue or 5.75% ICC's total revenue	Estimated money at stake for an India-Pakistan T20I including legal betting

I think in the next four or five days, when reactions start pouring in from across the world and even from their former players, there is a possibility that Pakistan will change their stance

Sunil Gavaskar

Pakistan is fourth biggest beneficiary

India	38.5%
England	6.89%
Newzeland	6.25%
Pakistan	5.75%

PCB

Rs 330 cr

Pakistan stand to lose all of Rs 330 cr in case broadcasters legally decide to recover their losses

Ruling, Oppn members almost come to blows in Council

BENGALURU, DHNS: A remark by Congress member Nazeer Ahmed against PM Narendra Modi led to ruckus in the Legislative Council with a few ruling and Opposition BJP members almost coming to blows.

The chaos forced Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to cut short his reply to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's address at the beginning of the joint session, even as chairman of the House Basavaraj Horatti adjourned the proceedings abruptly, Sensing trouble, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil intervened and calmed the members.

Details on Page 4

VIGIL ON

Sharp rise in online posts taken down by B'luru cops

DH EXCLUSIVE

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

There was an eight-fold increase in the number of social media posts taken down by the Bengaluru City police between 2023 and 2025, according to data accessed by *DH*. The number of social media posts taken down by the city police was 41 in 2023, which rose to 316 in 2025.

Moreover, 144 social media accounts were blocked or deleted in 2025, a drastic increase from 2023, when only 18 accounts were blocked or deleted.

Police said that with social media usage on a continuous rise, they have become increasingly vigilant to prevent any untoward incidents due to online posts.

Posts that could disturb public peace and tranquility, posts with provocative or threatening messages or videos, and posts with defamatory comments and videos are among the majority of the posts that were deleted, police said.

"There were a couple of cases where filthy language was used against the Karnataka flag. In a few cases, some also created fake accounts, and based on the victims' complaints these fake accounts were blocked or deleted," an official said.

As many as 210 special teams with 449 trained officials now monitor the developments on social media accounts.

"We have social media monitoring centres, and team members are trained to identify the content that adheres to standards that are set in law, rules, circulars and guidelines. Those contents that are not meeting these standards will be flagged and shortlisted. Later, the opinions of investigators will be obtained and based on their opinion, the post will be removed and the account will be blocked," a senior official told *DH*.

Cases are also booked under relevant sections of the law, he further said.

Police officers said it is not easy for them to track down the origin of these posts or accounts.

They cited a lack of support from social media platforms as a major reason for this.

▸ Social media, Page 5

Action on social media: Top categories in 2025

BROUGHT DOWN		BLOCKED OR DELETED	
31 posts: Message, photo or video disturbing public peace and tranquility	15 posts: Provocative or threatening content	11 accounts: Posting videos with content that could disturb the public peace	10 accounts: Posting obscene disturbing content
	8 posts: Fake news, photos or videos		8 accounts: Fake account created in victim's name

Quickly

AI grounds plane after fuel switch issue

Air India said on Monday it had grounded a Boeing Dreamliner, which landed in Bengaluru from London, after a pilot reported an issue with the fuel control switch. The issue has been reported to the DGCA.

Details on Page 10

Rs 7,748 cr for K'taka rail projects

The Union Budget has allocated Rs 7,748 crore for railway projects in Karnataka, Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Monday. He said railway works worth Rs 52,950 crore are currently under progress across Karnataka.

Details on Page 5

Census: SC bins plea on caste data procedure

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to consider a plea questioning the procedure to be adopted to record, classify, and verify the caste data of citizens in the 2027 general census.

Details on Page 8

HC imposes Rs 50,000 on Wipro

The Karnataka High Court has imposed a cost of Rs 50,000 upon Wipro Enterprises Private Limited for compelling one of its former employees to undergo prolonged litigation to secure an amount contractually promised.

Probe against B'luru pub after boy ends life

Police have initiated action against a pub in Bengaluru after a class 10 student allegedly died by suicide on January 31 as he was scared to go home in an inebriated condition. Police said the boy had consumed alcohol at the pub. He allegedly jumped from the seventh floor of his apartment.

Details on Page 2

BWSSB's demand notices of up to Rs 1 lakh leave property owners stunned

Say penalties came without prior notice

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Property owners in Bengaluru have been caught off guard after the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) issued demand notices ranging from Rs 50,000 to over Rs 1 lakh for failing to regularise temporary sanitary connections within the stipulated two-year period.

Several owners said the penalties were imposed without prior warning, alleging that the BWSSB did not adequately communicate the revised penalty rule when it was introduced over a year ago.

They also pointed out that the notices had clubbed monthly penalties, resulting in a steep one-time payment.

Since March last year, the BWSSB has been levying a penalty of Rs 2,500 per month per house or flat on under-construction buildings that continue to use temporary sanitary connections beyond two years.

From March last year, the BWSSB began imposing a penalty of Rs 2,500 per month per house or flat on under-construction buildings that continue to use temporary sanitary connections beyond two years.

While the decision was approved by the board in January last year, residents alleged that the penalty was neither made public nor reflected in monthly bills.

The water board, which serves over 12 lakh households across the city, justified the move by citing the prolonged misuse of temporary sanitary connections. According to BWSSB officials, nearly 14,000 buildings have retained temporary connections meant primarily for construction workers.

As per norms, property owners are required to apply for regularisation once construction is completed. However, some continue to use temporary connections, particularly when they depend on borewell water or private tanker supply.

Applying for a regular connection also involves payment of pro-rata charges — infrastructure fees — which can run into several thousand rupees.

Earlier last week, the Karnataka Rashtra Samiti (KRS) filed a complaint with the BWSSB, seeking a rollback of the demand notices.

The party alleged that BWSSB engineers were issuing arbitrary penalty notices and threatening citizens.

KRS State General Secretary Raghupathi Bhat said the issue could have been avoided had the penalty been transparently included in monthly bills.

"If the first penalty had appeared in the water bill, owners would have regularised the connection immediately. Instead, consumers are now being asked to pay penalties accumulated over the past year in one go. This is unjust and illogical," he said.

Responding to the issue, BWSSB Engineer-in-Chief Dalayath BS said he would look into the matter.

Class 10 student dies in suspected suicide; investigation under way

BENGALURU, DHNS: A Class 10 student allegedly died by suicide after jumping from the seventh floor of an apartment building in RR Nagar on the night of January 31, police officials said.

The deceased, a 15-year-old boy studying at a private school, is believed to have consumed alcohol at a pub in RR Nagar after attending his school farewell earlier that day.

According to the police, he was dropped off near his apartment complex on Uttarahalli Main Road around 9.40 pm.

Police said the boy allegedly feared returning home as he was intoxicated and subsequently jumped from the seventh floor of the common passage of the apartment building, resulting in his death.

The RR Nagar police have registered a suo motu case and launched an investigation.

Action has been initiated against the pub staff for allegedly serving alcohol to a minor.

A case has been registered under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act and the Excise Act, and further investigation is under way, officials said.

(If you are in distress or experiencing suicidal thoughts, you can contact the 24/7 helpline KIRAN at 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104.)

3 of a family killed in LPG explosion

BENGALURU, DHNS: Three members of a family succumbed to burns at Victoria Hospital on Monday.

They were critically injured after an accidental LPG explosion in Kanakapura Town on January 26.

The deceased have been identified as Siddaraju (55), his wife Chandramma (50), and their son Prashanth (22).

A senior police officer said the incident occurred in Amaranarayana Block of Kanakapura, where the family had rented a house. Prashanth was running an eatery, and his parents were helping him.

On January 26, while the family was cooking, the LPG cylinder exploded, leaving all of them with severe burns. They were rushed to Victoria Hospital, where they succumbed.

The Kanakapura police have registered a case and are investigating.

Busy Malleswaram roads to come under pay & park system

Civic body targets traffic discipline, steady revenue

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The busy streets of Malleswaram will soon come under a pay-and-park system. The Bengaluru West City Corporation (BWCC) has invited tenders to operate the roadside pay-and park system in Malleswaram.

In the first stage, seven roads, including Sampige Road and 8th Cross Road, will come under the system.

Senior BWCC officials stated that the area sees heavy footfall and haphazard parking has resulted in traffic issues. "Since it is a shopping hub, a large number of vehicles are parked every day," said a senior official.

"Now, as there is no system, they are parked in a haphazard manner, causing problems to other commuters and even pedestrians," the official added.

While the pay-and-park system could help address traffic problems, it will also act as a revenue source for the corporation. The BWCC aims for an annual revenue of at least Rs 3 crore from the system in Malleswaram.

The agency selected to operate the system will also have powers to tow away vehicles parked outside the designated slots.

However, towing charges cannot exceed Rs 650 for two-wheelers and Rs 1,000 for three-wheelers and four-wheelers. Parking charges are capped at a maximum of Rs 30 per hour for four-wheelers and Rs 15 per hour for two-wheelers. A day pass facility will be provided for those parking beyond five hours.

Pay-and-park kiosks on MG Road. DH FILE PHOTO

Traffic police in the area said the system could bring more discipline to the roads. "Now, we have to constantly keep a watch on vehicles parked on the roadside. Since the roads are not very wide, such vehicles cause traffic bottlenecks every now and then. With the system, if parking is limited to designated spots, traffic management will become easier," one of the officers on duty said.

The agency will be responsible for marking the parking slots and will also install CCTV cameras at 200-metre intervals to monitor activity. The parking zones will have digital signboards showing the availability of parking slots and the prices.

The contract will be valid for three years, with a possible extension of two years.

Recently, the Bengaluru Central City Corporation announced a pay-and-park system on 23 roads in the CBD area, followed by Bengaluru North City Corporation and Bengaluru East City Corporation.

Roads identified

- Sampige Road
- 18th Cross Road
- 15th Cross Road
- 11th Cross Road
- 8th Cross Road
- 4th Main Road
- 2nd Main Road

North corp seals two paying guest accommodations

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) has conducted an inspection of paying guest (PG) accommodations under its jurisdiction.

During the inspection, two men's PGs operating at Yelahanka Kogilu Cross were found to be violating prescribed guidelines. "The occupants were vacated, and the premises were sealed in the presence of Health Department officials."

"The kitchen of Heavenly Co-Living PG located in Jakkur was also inspected. Due to poor hygiene and lack of cleanliness, it was sealed in the presence of Health Department officials," a statement by the corporation said.

The BNCC Commissioner said strict action will be taken against PGs that fail to follow guidelines or operate without authorisation.

Workers' unions press on after SC rejects minimum wage plea

BENGALURU, DHNS

Domestic workers' unions in the city and across the country have expressed deep frustration following the Supreme Court's refusal to entertain a petition seeking enforcement of statutory minimum wages for the sector.

The unions, including the city-based Domestic Workers Rights Union (DWRU), issued a joint statement on Monday, four days after the apex court disposed of their writ petition.

The court, led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, directed the workers to approach state governments instead to highlight their concerns.

The unions alleged that their claims, grounded in constitutional rights of equality and non-discrimination, were filtered through "prevailing social assumptions" that prioritise "patriarchal family values" and employer convenience over the rights of the country's poorest women workers.

"We feel deeply offended that our claims were not examined through a substantive constitutional lens," said Geeta Menon, General Secretary of DWRU, Karnataka.

The unions argued that by dismissing the petition, the court overlooked decades of struggle without adequately engaging with evidence or the constitutional implications of Article 23, which prohibits forced labour.

The state government recently released the Draft Karnataka Domestic Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill, 2025. However, activists have flagged that it lacks a clear mandate for minimum wages and enforceable rights.

Despite the legal setback, the unions maintained they would continue to organise, resist, and fight for legal recognition and protection for domestic workers.

Delayed trade licence applications to face fines

BENGALURU, DHNS: Commercial establishments in the city will be asked to pay a 25 per cent fine in March for delay in applying for trade licences, according to a new circular by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

The fine quadruples to 100 per cent from April 1, the circular, which the GBA expects all five city corporations to follow, stated. Authorities can renew licences for a period of five years.

GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao has directed all corporations to encourage payment of renewal fees online.

The circular has also instructed corporations not to renew licences for commercial activities on roads less than 40 feet wide in residential areas.

Maheshwar Rao

Businesses on roads wider than 40 feet in residential areas are permitted, if they comply with zonal regulations.

"If there are complaints about businesses operating in full or in part in buildings constructed in violation of the plan, in parking areas or on rooftops, the renewal of the licence may be withheld and rejected," the circular states.

Info Commission orders ELCITA to name PIOs within a month

BENGALURU, DHN: Ruling that the Electronics City Industrial Township Area (ELCITA) is both a state authority and a public authority, the Karnataka Information Commission (KIC) has directed its management to immediately appoint Public Information Officers (PIOs) and First Appellate Authorities (FAAs) in accordance with Section 5 of the Right to Information Act, 2005.

The commission has also directed the Urban Development Department (UDD) to ensure that ELCITA complies with the order within a month.

In his order, State Information Commissioner Rajashekara S directed officials, including the Chief Secretary of Karnataka, not to issue letters exempting any authority from the purview of the RTI Act.

"Any violation should be dealt with through disciplinary action under the Karnataka Civil Services Rules," the commissioner's order said.

The direction was issued while hearing an appeal filed by Naveen Kumar, who had sought detailed information on the property taxes fixed by ELCITA for companies, commercial establishments, housing complexes and individual plots within its jurisdiction.

Daylight heist: Cash pickup agent robbed of Rs 31 lakh

BENGALURU, DHNS: An employee of a cash pickup agency was attacked and robbed of Rs 31.38 lakh by bike-borne men in broad daylight on Sakalavara Road near Bannerghatta on Sunday.

Police are not ruling out the involvement of the complainant, Kailash, who hails from Rajasthan.

The incident took place at 4.20 pm.

Kailash, 24, who has worked with the company for five years as a pickup staff, collected cash from three different pickup points on Sakalavara Road and Kudlu Gate. He kept the cash in his scooter's boot space.

A group of four men followed Kailash on two scooters and intercepted him. The assailants pretended to ask for directions in Kannada and, moments later, one of them assaulted Kailash on the hand with a machete.

He was pushed off the scooter, after which the attackers fled with the vehicle, mobile phone, and cash.

The scooter was later abandoned at a traffic signal.

The accused were wearing helmets and escaped on a black bike and scooter. Kailash sustained injuries on his hands during the attack, and later lodged a complaint with the police.

The Bannerghatta police have registered a case and formed a special team to trace the accused. However, no clues have emerged so far about the suspects, a police officer said.

CCTV footage captured the entire incident, which went viral on social media on Monday.

A police officer said Kailash was working part-time in a hardware shop.

He has been taken into custody for interrogation as his involvement in the crime is also suspected.

Efforts are on to nab all the accused.

Vocal concert

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira will present a vocal concert by Kalavathy Avadhoot with Mattur R Srinidhi (violin), HS Sudhindra (mridanga), and Omkar Rao (ghata) on Tuesday at 5.30 pm at the Bangalore Gayana Samaja, KR Road.

Corrigendum

BENGALURU, DHNS: The news report, 'Rs 26 cr: Biggest seizure from single official', carried in these columns on January 30, 2026, incorrectly mentioned that the official was from the Forest Department.

The official in question, Tejesh Kumar N, is an assistant commissioner from the Revenue Department. He has been transferred to the Shivamogga Forest Department as manager, but is yet to report for duty.

The error is regretted.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Mainly clear sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	30.0°C
Minimum	16.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	65%
Sunset (Feb 3)	6:21 pm
Sunrise (Feb 4)	6:46 am
Moonrise	6:54 pm
Moonset	7:00 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Invites to be published should be sent to:
incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.
Please note that hard copieswill not be accepted

Metro Railway, Kolkata

Chief Signal and Telecom Engineer/Project, Metro Railway, Kolkata for & on behalf of the President of India invites e-Tenders against Open Tender due to open on **06.03.2026 at 15:30 hrs.** for the following works. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Name of work:** Replacement of Passenger Announcement System (PAS) and Passenger Information Display System (PIDS) in Blue line of Metro Railway, Kolkata. **Tender Value:** ₹ 15,18,85,274/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹ 9,09,400/- **Completion Period:** 9 months. The tender can be viewed at website **https://www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate on e-Tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-Tender.
Tender Notice No.: S&T/Work-08-2024-Retender-2 Date: 02.02.2026
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PM SHRI KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA - CRPF
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E-mail : kvcrpfyelfin@gmail.com
Website : https://crpfyelahanka.kvs.ac.in

WALK IN INTERVIEW
On 11th February & 12th February 2026 For The Following Contractual Posts From 9.00 a.m.

Post	Date & time
PGT : English / Hindi / Physics / Biology / Chemistry / Mathematics / Economics / Commerce / Computer Science / History / Geography / Political Science / Yoga Teacher / Sports Coach.	11th February 2026 9.00 a.m. Onwards
TGT : English / Science / Maths / Social Science / Hindi / Sanskrit.	
Primary Teacher, Computer Instructor, Primary Teacher (Music), Self Defence Teacher, Vocational Instructor, Educational Counselor, Special Educator, Staff Nurse, Kannada Teacher and Band Instructor (Bagpiper Band) Balvatika Teacher & Balvatika Care Giver	12th February 2026 9.00 a.m. Onwards

For eligibility, forms please log on to https://crpfyelahanka.kvs.ac.in.
Sd/- Principal

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
E-TENDER
Tender Notice No. CAO-CN-MS-EPC-SD-01-2026 DATED 28-01-2026
Tender Notice No. 41-CECNMS-2026-E-623792 DATED 29-01-2026
For and on behalf of The President of India, The Chief Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai 600 008 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal www.ireps.gov.in. The tenderers/Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal www.ireps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted.

NAME OF THE WORK
Redevelopment of Katpadi Junction Railway station (Balance Work) on EPC mode.

Cash Value (Cr.)	Earnest Money Deposit ₹	Period of Completion (Months)	Closing Date @ 17.30 Hrs	Pre-Bid Conference Date @ 11.30 Hrs.	Physical submission of documents before 17.00 Hrs
263.68	13184400	30	02-03-2026	06-02-2026	5 DAYS

NAME OF THE WORK
Proposed additional platform line and extension of Single face platform to Island platform for proposed Road 5 at Puducherry station.

Cash Value (₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	Period of Completion (Months)	Closing Date @ 15.30 Hrs
71762929.33	508800	18	24-02-2026

For further details, please refer to web site portal **www.ireps.gov.in** or contact Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Construction, E.V.R. High Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.
Chief Engineer (Construction), Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

L. N. Religious Society: Jyothinagar Vaishya Yajaman Janopakari Doddana Swami's 186th Jayanti; Ramalinga Reddy, Dr MC Sudhakar, Uday Garaduchar, VR Sudarshan, B Ramesh, S Suresh; Society Premises, Kote; 11 am.

Symposium: 'Bhima Koregaon Victory and Challenges Ahead for Dalits'; Gyanprakash Swamiji, Varajyothi Bhanteji, Priyank Kharge, Dinesh Amin Mattu; Mallappa Hosmani Inganakal, Satish Jarkiholi, NS Boseraju, Abbayya Prasad, Tippannappa Kamakanur, Mavalli Shankar, Basavaraj Kautal, Dattatraya Ikkalakhi; Organised by Bharatiya Dalit Panther; Gandhi Bhavan, Kumarakrupa Road; 11 am.

Karnataka Ahinda Horata Samiti: Dr Siddhalingaiah's 73rd birthday ceremony; H Anjaneya, Kalegowda Nagawara, Agrahara Krishnamurthy, Srinivas G Kappanna, Mavalli Shankar, John Devaraj, Ramadevi, Siddhalingaiah, Shiva Shankar; Nayana Sabhagana, Kannada Bhavan, JC Road; 11 am.

CULTURAL

Bharat Ranga Mahotsav and Ranga Parishe: Karnataka Natak Academy, National Drama School; Kalagrama, Mallattahalli; from 4 pm onwards.

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Curated by DH Brandspot

Social welfare projects mark Arvind Limbavali's birthday celebrations

Several public service programmes were conducted across the rural and urban mandals of Mahadevapura constituency by BJP leaders and cadres to celebrate the 59th birthday of former minister Arvind Limbavali. Along with his wife Manjula Limbavali, MLA, he offered prayers at the Jyotirlingeshwara Temple. Later, at the Hosur Bande Gau Ashram, he offered prayers and fed cows.

Former MLA Arvind Limbavali feeds cows at the Hosur Bande Gau Ashram on the occasion of his 59th birthday.

Among events held, the Rural Mandal BJP Yuva Morcha distributed bicycles to differently-abled people. Blood donation camp, sports meet, distribution of clothes at a home for senior citizens, free health camp, sports jackets for children of a government school, sarees for 1,500 women and free meals for 2,000 people were among the many initiatives. An ambulance was donated to Snehajeevi Ashram. Grocery was distributed at Munnekolala Manjunatha Badavane.

Manjula Limbavali said, "A cleanliness drive was conducted at Mandur Government Hospital, sapling-planting was held at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Garden in Kannamangala, and wrestling competitions for men and women were organised at the Kadugodi Folk Cultural Stage. Clothes were distributed to civic and ASHA workers".

Leaders Sridhar Reddy, H S Pillappa, L Rajesh, Giriraj Gowda, Pradeep Kumar, Ashok, Chandrashekar Reddy, Anantharamayya, Jayadev and Gagan G were present.

B'luru ahead in tech, strict laws can make it cleaner: Düsseldorf mayor

'We don't issue planning permissions where there's no public transport'

Dr Stephan Keller, Mayor of Düsseldorf, Germany's seventh-largest city, speaks at the Future ICT Forum for Sustainable Cities, in Bengaluru on Monday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Stephan Keller, mayor of Düsseldorf, Germany, during his recent visit to Bengaluru, highlighted how deep international engagement, particularly with Karnataka, is emerging as a practical and scalable model for building climate-resilient, technology-driven cities.

Speaking at a fireside chat at ICT Forum for Sustainable Cities, here on Monday, Keller pointed out the common strength between Bengaluru and Düsseldorf.

He spoke about Karnataka's deep digital and engineering expertise paired with Düsseldorf's industrial scale, regulatory stability and access to European markets. Together, he said, this creates a powerful platform for sustainable urban innovation.

Sharing a concrete example of ongoing collaboration, he cited GEA Group, headquartered in Düsseldorf, which operates an advanced water technology manufacturing campus in Bengaluru.

GEA's decanter centrifuge systems help reclaim nearly 1.5 billion litres of water annually from wastewater sludge, contributing directly to the revival of polluted urban lakes and improving water security, public health and overall quality of life in the city.

In a conversation with *DH*, Keller shed light on the need for cities to be 'transport-first cities'.

He delved into how public transport is the backbone of seamless mobility in Düsseldorf.

"We don't issue planning permissions where there is no public transport. From the little knowledge that I have of Indian cities, I understand that due to the rapid growth of these cities, public transport has not been accounted for. There has been no chance for the transport system to keep pace with development and expansion," he said.

Keller said it would be ideal for transportation to come first, before planning development projects.

He highlighted the need for stricter penalties to ensure a garbage-free city.

"We were able to solve the problem by forcing everyone to use segregated waste bins and ensuring waste was collected regularly. There can be no compromise in this regard. There are heavy penalties for not following these rules. While Bengaluru might be technologically ahead, only stricter enforcement can make it a cleaner city," the mayor said.

To make cities sustainable, he urged governments to adopt integrated strategies and view sustainability through a measurable, scalable lens.

'Bengaluru, Düsseldorf a perfect match'

"Bengaluru and Düsseldorf are a perfect match, because in Bengaluru there is lot of innovation and talent. The city is at the forefront of development in AI. Düsseldorf brings scale and connection to the old economy. We have a shortage of skilled labour, and we're always scouting for talent. There's always room for partnership, especially in healthcare," he said.

AI a boon, not a threat to cinematographers, says Rathnavelu

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Artificial Intelligence (AI) may be the new frontier for cinema, but it can never replace the human eye behind the lens, acclaimed cinematographer R Rathnavelu said at the 17th Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) on Monday.

Speaking at a session titled 'When Light Becomes Language,' the veteran Director of Photography (DOP) sought to mitigate fears regarding the rise of AI in filmmaking. "AI will be a great pre-production tool and is, in fact, a boon to people like us. But it will never be able to shoot at a location with the kind of lighting and visuals that we are able to create. So, it is not a threat," he said.

Rathnavelu, the man behind the blockbusters films like Robo, Rangasthalam, and Sye Raa Narasimhareddy, emphasised that a DOP's role is intrinsic to the narrative from its inception. "It is important for a DOP to be involved from the script stage until the movie hits the screens. Only then is it possible to bring the director's ideas to life better than they even imagined," he noted.

Offering advice to aspiring cinematographers, Rathnavelu stressed the necessity of rigorous preparation. He revealed his personal process, stating that he reads a complete script at least twice to grasp the emotional core. "Once you understand the emotions the director is looking for, only then can you plan locations, lighting, and coordinate with other departments," he added.

Reflecting on current industry trends, Rathnavelu lamented the lack of visual diversity in the digital era. He observed that the complete shift to digital cameras has led to a certain monotony. "Today, 90% of movies look the same. If one person uses a teal and orange shade, everyone follows the same colour scheme. There is a dire need for novelty," he said.

To break this mold in his recent project Devara, starring Junior NTR and Janhvi Kapoor, Rathnavelu turned back the clock. He experimented with film negatives to provide a distinct and textured visual experience that stands out from the digital standard.

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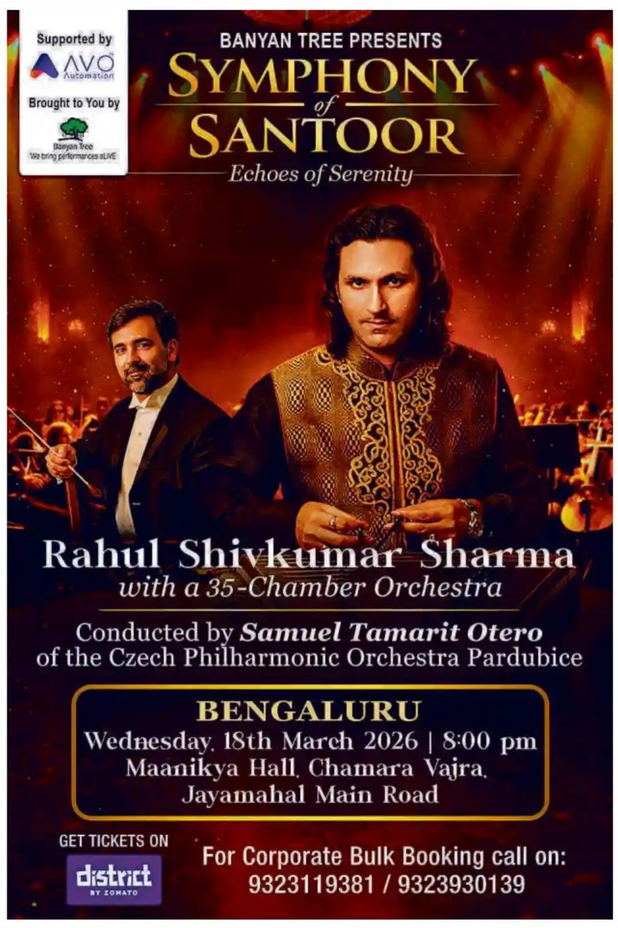
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Very little funding for documentary industry: Maya Chandra

PRANATI A S
BENGALURU, DHNS

A documentary filmmaker, who has been using artificial intelligence (AI) in her works for the past two years, reasoned that the choice comes from "low funding for documentaries."

Maya Chandra, known for documentaries like 'The Saga of a Brave Heart', 'The Krishna Cosmic Circle of Life' and 'Loin Loom Weaving-Arunachal Pradesh', was speaking at the session titled 'The Documentary Dialogue: Emphasising Discussion and Engagement with Documentaries,' at the Bengaluru International Film Festival.

Chandra highlighted the challenges of funding and marketing documentaries. "Although I have worked with big names, there is very little funding for the documentary industry," she said. Irrespective of using AI in her documentaries, Chandra believes that technology must be used with restraint. "The human story should always come first," she added.

"Your ethics shape your film before the camera even rolls," said Chandra recalling a fatal accident that led to her documentary about eye donation. In 2018, a man named Harish, after a fatal road accident, where his body was cut into two, pleaded with people that his eyes be donated. Chandra says she saw this on TV which was being showcased live. She and her team rushed to the location immediately.

Her documentary about Harish, 'Harish: Selflessness Beyond', led to government action. A campaign was launched to encourage eye donations, which resulted in an entire village pledging their eyes. Chandra's team followed up with the documentary and documented the lives of people who received the donated eyes.

Chandra emphasised the importance of silence in documentaries. "We must let silence speak. Not everything needs narration or music. Stillness creates space for thought," she said recalling shooting 'The Saga of a Braveheart' about Lt Col Ajit V Bhandarkar, who died fighting terrorists at Poonch, Jammu and Kashmir.

'12 principles'

Chandra discussed 12 principles of documentary making and highlighted how the film should not be overloaded with information and uncertainty should be embraced. "Reality will surprise you. We're very passionate about our scripts but it is also important to change direction when the story demands," she said and added that, "The audience should be left thinking, talking, and questioning at the end of the film."

Film academy books on sale

The festival has a book stall dedicated to books published by the Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy. Among the books for sale are 'Karnad Kaleidoscope' by Muralidhara Khajane, 'Puttanna Kanagal' by H N Narahari Rao and M K Raghavendra, 'Sati Sulochana: Kannadada Modala Vakhchitrada Kathana' by Raghunath C H, 'Nimma Nirdeshakiyaru' by Vishakha N and 'Simhavalokana' by N S Sridhar Murthy. Books most sold at the festival include: 'Chitrakathe: Haagandarenu' by N S Shankar, the coffee table book 'Chitrapatha', and 'Chandanavanada Chinnada Hoogalu' by R C Haralapura.

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HM denies law & order 'failure', says crimes down under Cong govt

We have declared war on drug menace: Parameshwara

BENGALURU, DHNS

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Monday rejected the BJP's allegation that law and order had deteriorated in Karnataka, placing comparative crime statistics, drug seizure data and details of deportation of illegal immigrants on record during a debate on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address in the Assembly.

Replying to Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka and senior MLA Araga Jnanendra, both former home ministers, Parameshwara said they seemed to have forgotten how law and order was during their tenure.

Citing official figures, Parameshwara said between 2011 and 2013, when Ashoka was home minister, the state recorded 4,121 murders, 582 NDPS cases and 995 cybercrime cases. Under Basavaraj Bommai (2019–20), murders stood at 2,554, NDPS cases at 8,317 and cybercrime cases at 19,157. During Araga Jnanendra's tenure, there were 2,417 murders and 24,486 cybercrime cases.

G PARAMESHWARA
Home Minister

"Under Basavaraj Bommai (2019–20), murders stood at 2,554, NDPS cases at 8,317 and cybercrime cases at 19,157. During Araga Jnanendra's tenure, there were 2,417 murders and 24,486 cybercrime cases. In contrast, after I took charge as home minister, murders have come down to 1,322, then 1,308 and further to 1,131. This clearly shows crime is not rising in the last two years.

"In contrast, after I took charge as home minister, murders have come down to 1,322, then 1,308 and further to 1,131. This clearly shows crime is not rising in the last two years," Parameshwara said.

On drugs, Parameshwara said the government had "declared a war on the drug menace" and would not compromise. "Peddlers and users will be brought to justice," he said. He noted that ganja seizures stood at 10,630 kg worth Rs 133 crore in 2023, 6,136 kg worth Rs 264 crore in 2024 and 6,219 kg worth Rs 308 crore in 2025, apart from synthetic drugs seized in the same period. He added that over 16 lakh students had been covered under awareness programmes and police had been instructed to prevent drug manufacture or sale in their jurisdictions.

Addressing concerns over illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, Parameshwara said Karnataka was not alone in facing the problem. "They (Bangladeshis) enter through the eastern border, especially Kolkata. Who is responsible for guarding the borders?" he asked, adding that the state government had identified and deported illegal immigrants. "In 2021, 15 were deported; in 2022, 21 were deported; in 2024, 68 were deported; and in 2025, 87 were deported. So far, 196 have been deported and another 370 identified and the legal process is under way," he said, adding drives would be launched in districts such as Chikkamagaluru, Hassan, Kodagu and Bengaluru.

'I'm not a helpless CM'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday rejected the BJP's charge that he was a "helpless Chief Minister," and told the Legislature Assembly that "sometimes circumstances are such that in the face of lies, even truth appears helpless."

Responding to BJP leader Sunil Kumar's remarks that governance had derailed, government lacked empathy and that he was an "helpless CM", Siddaramaiah asserted that his government was neither derailed nor unempathetic.

Replying to the debate on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address, Siddaramaiah said Gehlot did not read the full address, skipped the words "Jai Samvidhan" (Hail Constitution) written in the speech, read only a few lines in haste and left before the National Anthem.

Siddaramaiah stated that his government was critical of the Centre in the Governor's address, but there was nothing "unparliamentary" or false in it. He listed pending central dues, reduction in tax devolution from 4.71% under the 14th Finance Commission to 3.64% under the 15th commission, cumulative losses of over Rs 1.25 lakh crore to the state, and annual GST losses of Rs 15,000–Rs 20,000 crore. "These are facts in the public domain," he added.

On MGNREGA, Siddaramaiah criticised the Centre for replacing it with 'VB-G RAM G' Act, and took a swipe at Union Minister and JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy. Siddaramaiah said Kumaraswamy, as CM, had hailed MGNREGA as an "elixir for rural development" but was opposed to it now.

Siddaramaiah cited the previous BJP government's handling of the COVID-19 crisis and said the Yediyurappa government had refused to provide Rs 10,000 per family as relief despite his demand. The goverment and also failed to provide oxygen to Covid patients and under-reported deaths at Chamarajanagar. "Did you [BJP government] have empathy?" he said.

The CM also stated that no illegal immigrant in Kogilu would be given a house and strict action would be taken in the Ballari gun-fire case irrespective of the stature of the accused.

Unhappy with the reply, the BJP walked out alleging that Siddaramaiah skipped answering corruption charges levelled by the contractors association and the non-disbursal of Rs 5,000 crore under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme.

CM quotes DH

During his reply, Siddaramaiah quoted *DH*'s January 23 editorial on governors and their conduct.

Siddaramaiah reiterated that the government was not against Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot personally, but opposed the Centre's policies.

Govt drowning in corruption, administration in coma: Ashoka

BENGALURU, DHNS

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka on Monday charged that the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government was "drowning in corruption" while the administration had slipped into a "coma."

Speaking on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address in the Assembly, Ashoka also said that the 'power tussle' between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar has had an adverse impact on governance.

"The Siddaramaiah-led Congress government has sacrificed the interests of the state in many matters for the sake of political prestige and appeasement of the high command," Ashoka said, adding that many scandals were coming out. "To divert attention, the government is engaged in a confrontation with the Governor and the Centre," he said.

"This government is drowning in corruption. There is bribery everywhere," Ashoka said, referring to allegations levelled by the Karnataka State Contractors Association (KSCA).

R ASHOKA
Leader of the Opposition

"When the BJP was in power, we were accused of '40% commission'. Now, contractors have said that the rate of commission has doubled. It's an '80% commission' government. If there was no truth in these allegations, and yet no action has been taken against contractors, it means the government has done wrong.

Ashoka pointed out that the KSCA has flagged 'rampant corruption' in the Congress administration. "When the BJP was in power, we were accused of '40% commission'. Now, contractors have said that the rate of commission has doubled. It's an '80% commission' government," Ashoka said. "If there was no truth in these allegations, and yet no action has been taken against contractors, it means the government has done wrong."

Claiming that Siddaramaiah has lost grip over administration, Ashoka said: "The CM has gone from being a tiger, which he was once called, to a mouse."

Ashoka also said that between May 2023 and December 2025, the Congress government had introduced in the Assembly a total of 18 resolutions against the Centre. "Congress leaders are questioning why Mahatma Gandhi's name was removed with the enactment of the VB-G RAM G Act. Congress cannot tolerate the name of Ram. That's why the Ramanagara district was renamed," he said.

Ashoka read out schemes and institutions named after Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. "There are 454 schemes and institutions named after their family members."

139 MLAs, including Siddaramaiah, are my strength, says Shivakumar

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday asserted that "139 legislators, including Siddaramaiah" were his political strength, strongly countering the Opposition BJP's jibes at the ongoing power struggle between him and the CM during a debate in the Assembly.

The exchange was triggered after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah dismissed BJP claims of a rift, saying, "They say I am sugar and you (Shivakumar) are not haalu, but haalaahala (poison)". An irked Shivakumar said, "Time will give answers".

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka quipped, "His one line has 100 meanings and his tweets are intriguing. That is DK Shivakumar".

BJP's Sunil Kumar intervened, warning that "halaahala should not lead to kolaahala (chaos)."

Ashoka escalated the attack, saying, "Shivakumar says time will tell. If only he could specify what that time is, we will be happy".

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah makes a point during a discussion in Legislative Assembly at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Monday. DCM D K Shivakumar is also seen.

He claimed that Shivakumar had 56 MLAs with him. "When I asked the Siddaramaiah camp, I was told that those MLAs come to the CM in the morning and go to Shivakumar in the evening".

Ashoka continued, "That's why (Shivakumar) keeps saying that efforts may fail, but prayers won't".

When Congress members protested, Ashok vowed that the BJP will not topple the government. "I have nothing to gain. It's not like I'll become the CM."

Recalling his political journey, Shivakumar said, "I entered politics as a student leader. Today, I am party president and will complete six years in the post this March".

He asserted, "My strength is 139 legislators, including Siddaramaiah. He is with me 100%. We both will work together. I have stood by him in every crisis and will stand by him in future. He, too, will stand by me".

Declaring resolve over numbers, Shivakumar said, "Politics is the art of possibilities. *Obbane saaku* (only one is enough). If you have a strong resolve and purpose, that will suffice. The number will be 140 and more than that too. So, let us see on in 2028".

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Arvind Bellad reminded him of how he "kicked his way" to becoming a minister in the S M Krishna government. "We believe that's your strength and natural quality".

Unfazed, Shivakumar retorted, "I'll not yield to your words or Ashoka's. Stop worrying about me".

Guv wants Hate Speech Bill shelved: Parameshwara

BENGALURU, DHNS: Home Minister G Parameshwara on Monday said Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot "intentionally" referred the Hate Speech Bill to the President because he does not want it implemented.

"In my opinion, the governor has intentionally referred it to the President, so that it does not come into effect. He wants it to be shelved forever," Parameshwara told reporters.

On January 31, Gehlot reserved the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crime (Prevention) Bill, 2025, for President Droupadi Murmu's assent while expressing serious concerns.

According to sources, Gehlot said the Bill would have "a severe chilling effect on constitutionally-protected democratic discourse".

"If the President sends the Bill back to us with her observations, then we will do something and send it again (for assent)," Parameshwara said.

The minister insisted that the Bill was introduced "consciously" and not without forethought.

"There is freedom of speech, but that doesn't mean one can say anything. We have to see how it impacts society. That's why the Bill was introduced," he said.

Targeting the BJP, Parameswhwara asked: "If you (BJP) still say that this is not proper, then what are your motives? Do you mean that anyone can abuse anyone? Should we allow disturbance in society?"

Siddu forced to cut short speech in Council amid uproar

BENGALURU, DHNS

An uncharitable remark on Prime Minister Narendra Modi by Congress MLC Nazeer Ahmed – expunged from the records by Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti – caused a furore in the Upper House on Monday amid Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's reply to the Governor's address.

The CM was forced to truncate his speech amid the uproar, which compelled Horatti to adjourn the proceedings.

Despite the adjournment, a section of Congress and BJP MLCs continued their heated exchange, which threatened to get physical before Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil intervened and defused the situation.

Outraged over Ahmed's remarks, the BJP members demanded an apology from the Congress MLC and demanded his suspension from the House.

The BJP members continued to raise slogans condemning Ahmed's remarks even after they were expunged from the records.

"The remarks were not appropriate and I have expunged them; I have conveyed the same to the member," Horatti informed the Council.

Meanwhile, Siddaramaiah, in his address, pointed out that the Governor had omitted to say 'Jai Samvidhan', although the government had inserted the same in his speech.

"He left in a hurry without waiting for the National Anthem. I feel he has insulted the Constitution. You can oppose an ideology but not the Constitution. None is above the Constitution," said the CM.

Notwithstanding the commotion in the House, the CM invited Leader of Opposition in the Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy for a talk. When the latter refused, Siddaramaiah remarked that he would come to Chalavadi's place.

Latching on to the CM's remark, BJP MLC N Ravikumar asked if Siddaramaiah was ready to join the BJP. The CM said, "If I oppose any ideology, it is that of the RSS and BJP. The RSS and BJP do not advocate the development of poor, upliftment of women, minorities, Dalits and backward classes. I won't even sleep with my head pointing in that direction."

Orders issued to prepare for GP polls: Priyank

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government has issued orders to deputy commissioners to start preparing for gram panchayat elections, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge told the Legislative Assembly on Monday.

"In January, the term of about 1,000 panchayats has ended. In February, the term of about 3,000 more panchayats will end. DCs have been given orders to prepare for elections," Priyank said during a calling-attention motion by Opposition Chief Whip Doddanagouda Patil, who said the government should extend the term of the gram panchayat members instead of appointing administrators.

"We've sought a legal opinion on this suggestion," Priyank said. "Some gram panchyats have been upgraded, and we may face problems with delimitation and reservation. Also, the Governor's office has advised that we should wait until after the Census," he added.

Gruha Lakshmi: Issues of 20k beneficiaries resolved

BENGALURU, DHNS: Minister for Women and Child Development Laxmi Hebbalkar on Monday informed the Legislative Council around 52,000 women were not receiving money under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme as they were shown as payers of GST and income tax. The minister said that such issue of 20,000 beneficiaries had already been resolved.

Responding to a question raised by member P H Pujar, she said that the records with GST and Income Tax departments also show same status and hence efforts were being made to resolve the issue. She clarified that neither the government nor the department is at fault.

"Some beneficiaries, while conducting certain business activities, fall under the ambit of GST and Income Tax. In the software built specifically for Gruha Lakshmi, if the beneficiary is shown to be GST or Income Tax payer, the status cannot be altered.

SESSION SNIPPET

Assembly hails Roopakala for securing PhD

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Legislative Assembly on Monday congratulated KGF Congress MLA Roopakala M for securing a PhD award from the Karnataka State Open University.

"This is a matter of pride for all of us," Speaker U T Khader said. Roopakala's doctoral degree was on the role of women representatives in politics and their participation in local bodies, especially the Kolar Zilla Panchayat.

"This was an effort of several years with the hope that it will provide guidance to society," Roopakala said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his deputy D K Shivakumar and Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka hailed Roopakala for the feat.

When Shivakumar urged Khader to do something that would push lawmakers towards research, the Speaker left the House in splits when he said: "I'm also planning to take up research. You know what the subject is? The shortage of attendance in the Assembly."

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I, **Sreevaishnav** S/o Srikanth Ramaswamy, residing at New No 90, Old No. 78, East Park Road, Malleswaram, Bengaluru - 560 003., have changed my name to **SREEVAISHNAV SRIKANTH** vide affidavit dated 29-01-2026 before notary M.S. Satish, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Shivakumar,** residing at No. 289, 2nd Cross, 2nd Main, Chenniah Layout, Tyagrajnagar, Bengaluru-560070, have changed my name to **SHIVAKUMAR B** vide affidavit dated 29-01-2026 before notary V Shinivasa Reddy, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **SHIVAKUMAR B** only

JOB
To Place your Classified Ads Contact:
9886213331

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **16112450F, Naik, Thejamurthy DM** S/o Mahalingappa DH, aged about 42 years, C/o CWE (Army) Bangalore, 101, Dickenson Road, Bangalore- 560042, have changed my dependents name as follows: **MAHALAINGAPPA DH** to **MAHALINGAPPA, GOWRAMMA JN** to **GOWRAMMA,** vide affidavit dated 28.01.2026 before notary H S Geetha, Arsikere

I, AKHILESH, S/o Subhash, residing at Kusrampalli Tanda, state that my name has been wrongly mentioned as "Akhlesh" in my father's Indian Army records. My correct name is Akhilesh. Both names refer to the same person.

Budget push a calming balm for state's plantation growers

Growers 'cautiously optimistic'; expert says it's an 'eyewash'

MANJUNATH HEGDE BOMNALLI
HUBBALLI, DHNS

While Karnataka is a leading producer of sandalwood, coconut, cashew and cocoa, the Union Budget's announcement of an initiative to support these 'high-value' crops has come at a time when the state is grappling with a shortage of sandalwood, declining coconut yields and heavy dependence on imported cashew and cocoa.

Sandalwood, Karnataka's state tree, was opened for cultivation by private persons over two decades ago. However, the Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL), which extracts sandalwood oil and manufactures famed products like Mysore Sandal soap, is experiencing a shortage of sandalwood.

Noting that the initiative will contribute significantly to environmental conservation, carbon sequestration and long-term income security for farmers, All India Sandalwood and Tree-culture Association president K Amaranarayana said sandalwood should be considered as a farm produce, not forest produce.

Sandalwood is grown by farmers on around 11,000 hectares and its cultivation and sale should be deregulated, he said, adding theft and smuggling were major challenges.

According to KSDL managing director Prashanth P K M, KSDL imports nearly 7,000 kg of sandalwood oil, which is 65% of KSDL's requirement.

The state government is planning to grow more sandalwood trees in forest areas, farmers' lands and barren government lands.

Farmers and officials admit that coconut yield has come down, citing old trees as the main reason, along with diseases.

Cashew is grown traditionally in coastal Karnataka with a local output of only around 50,000 metric tonnes per year, while the state's processing capacity is 4.5 lakh metric tonnes. The rest of the requirement is imported from African countries. DH FILE PHOTO

Coconut Development Board chief coconut development officer B Hanumanthe Gowda said Karnataka was number 1 in coconut production and second in cultivation area.

The proposed coconut promotion scheme to 'increase production and enhance productivity through interventions like replacing old and non-productive trees with new ones in major coconut growing states' would bring focused support, particularly in coastal regions, he added.

"What is important is availability of fertilisers and pesticides at lower prices," said coconut grower Shankar Murthy of Tiptur taluk in Tumakuru district. Tiptur is a major coconut growing region.

Cashew

It is grown traditionally in coastal Karnataka, while raw cashew is being imported for processing.

Karnataka Cashew Manufacturers' Association vice president Tukaram Prabhu said the initiative would bring some positive results in five-six years, as it is aimed at making India self-reliant in raw cashew and processing, along with enhancing export competitiveness.

"Cashew processing capacity in the state is 4.5 lakh metric tonnes per year, but the local availability is only around 50,000 tonnes. African countries, from where the cashew is imported, are also now focusing more on processing. Traditional cashew growing area is coming down here, while being introduced in non-traditional areas," he said.

Cocoa

Mangaluru-based Central Arecanut and Cocoa Marketing and Processing Co-operative Limited (CAMPCO), which also procures cocoa and runs a chocolate factory, imports around 65% of its cocoa requirement. CAMPCO president Satishchandra S R said the new initiative would help cultivate good quality cocoa.

However, agri economist Prakash Kammaradi felt focusing on mere productivity is an outdated argument and no scheme was helpful unless it resulted in better market and prices for crops, increasing farmers' income.

The budget announcement seemed to be an eyewash, keeping the upcoming elections in Kerala and Tamil Nadu in mind.

Rs 7,748 cr for railway projects in Karnataka: Vaishnaw

Rs 3,085 cr for new lines, Rs 1,534 crore for doubling

BENGALURU, DHNS

A sum of Rs 7,748 crore has been allocated in the 2026-27 Union Budget for railway projects in Karnataka, Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Monday.

Addressing a press conference via video conferencing, he said the "record" budgetary allocation had translated into large-scale infrastructure development, with railway works worth Rs 52,950 crore currently under progress in the state.

These works span new track creation, comprehensive station redevelopment and major safety upgrades, he noted.

On the Bengaluru-Chennai and Bengaluru-Hyderabad bullet train corridors announced in the budget, Vaishnaw said they would make a big difference to people of Bengaluru.

"Bengaluru-Chennai will practically become one city, with a travel time of just one hour and 13 minutes. Travel time between Bengaluru and Hyderabad will be just two hours. The project will boost manufacturing, design and IT services in Bengaluru," he said.

Under Amrit Station Scheme, 61 stations in the stat have been identified for complete redevelopment at Rs 2,110 crore. Redevelopment works are already completed at 5 stations (Bagalkot, Dharwad, Gadag, Gokak Road & Munirabad) while 4 (Badami, Alnavar, Koppal & Bantwal) are awaiting inauguration.

Since 2014, around 1,750 km of new railway tracks have been constructed in the state, with 3,368 route kilometres (97%) of the railway network electrified. In addition, 707 flyovers and underpasses have been constructed.

The 138-km KSR Bengaluru-Mysuru section will get automatic signals at a cost of Rs 72.76 crore. The Letter of Acceptance (LOA) was issued to the BPPL-ETIL joint venture on December 9, 2025.

In a news statement, Minister of State for Railways V Somanna said Rs 3,085 crore had been allocated for the construction of new railway lines in Karnataka, and Rs 1,534 crore for the construction of double tracks.

Somanna, who is the BJP MP from Tumakuru, said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was making "unnecessary" allegations against the Centre. "He should get the cataract in his eyes treated. He should give up petty politics and a sadistic mindset and get to work. The state government should work in coordination with the Centre," he said.

CJ Roy death case: No note or diary found, says SIT

Roy, from Page 1

The SIT has also intensified its probe into Roy's business dealings. Officers are examining files, laptops and mobile phones seized from his office. Officials said all available technical and documentary evidence would be analysed in detail as part of the investigation. The SIT is also preparing to question more individuals.

"There are rumours about a nine-page death note and a 20-page diary. We will treat it as a death note only if it is found on the spot or if any electronic evidence is recovered during the investigation. If anyone makes unsubstantiated claims about such documents, we will not consider them," a senior SIT officer told *DH*.

SC: Set up tribunal to resolve TN-K'taka Pennaiyar dispute

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

TROUBLED WATERS

Centre submits that no consensus could be arrived at for amicably resolving the dispute

- Court rejects Karnataka's plea for one more attempt for holding talks
- TN had complained that various projects in Karnataka would affect Tamil Nadu
- TN submitted that a time has come for issuing mandamus to constitute a tribunal since talks have failed

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the setting up of a water disputes tribunal to resolve the Pennaiyar river issue between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and N V Anjaria issued the directions to the Centre for forming the tribunal under the Inter State River Water Disputes Act, 1956.

The court had on December 19, 2025 wrapped up the hearing as the Centre submitted that there was no consensus on resolving the dispute.

Karnataka sought one more round of talks but the court did not agree to it.

Tamil Nadu has filed a complaint under Section 3 of the Act of 1956, complaining that Karnataka's projects across the Pennaiyar river and its tributary Markandeya Nadi have affected or are likely to affect Tamil Nadu's interests.

Karnataka submitted that out of the total water of 11.77 tmcft in Karnataka's catchment, the state has planned to utilise 9.77 tmcft, leaving 2 tmcft and surplus water to Tamil Nadu.

In any case, Karnataka also contended that the setback Tamil Nadu complained about is de minimis (insignificant), it added.

Additional Solicitor General, Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Union government, submitted that if the riparian states refused to negotiate, the Centre cannot call for a meeting.

Senior advocate V Krishnamurthy, for Tamil Nadu, submitted that a time has come for issuing mandamus to constitute a tribunal.

Senior advocate Mohan Katarki, assisted by Advocate on Record Nishant Patil, sought one more opportunity for talks.

BDA gets Rs 2,097 cr from plot sale

BDA, from Page 1

Two smaller plots—measuring 2.19 acres and 1.31 acres — failed to attract bidders, which were also located in Konadasapura but near a waterbody.

Target Rs 10,000 crore

As per its detailed financial plan, the BDA has set a target of raising at least Rs 10,000 crore through multiple measures by the end of FY 2026.

These include e-auction of bulk land and residential sites; deposits collected through applications for the Dr Shivaram Karanth Layout; sale of flats, villas and CA sites, and implementation of Section 38 (D) of the BDA Act, which allows allotment of sites in favour of original owners, purchasers or unauthorised occupants upon payment of penalties.

Using these funds, the BDA has proposed several infrastructure projects, including the formation of six residential layouts, mostly in North and East Bengaluru, and construction of a 2.1-km short tunnel at Hebbal at an estimated cost of Rs 2,215 crore, among others.

A senior BDA official attributed the successful deal to internal reforms initiated over the last six months.

The BDA, he said, will seek the government's approval on how the funds should be utilised.

Furore in LS as Rahul refers to ex-Army chief's 'memoir'

Rahul, from Page 1

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla disallowed Rahul from referring to Naravane's book but the Congress leader did not relent, prompting the former to accuse him of "repeatedly insulting the Chair by ignoring the ruling", even as the Opposition MPs rallied behind the latter. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav urged the Speaker to allow Rahul to raise the issue.

"They (BJP) say they fight terrorism but are scared of one quote...If they are not scared, they should allow me to read it (from the book)...While speaking about the Presidential Address, you cannot speak about Pakistan, you cannot speak about China," Rahul said in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Rahul started his speech claiming that he was not planning to raise the issue but after BJP MP Tejasvi Surya questioned the Congress' "patriotism", he was forced to refer to the memoirs. Singh asked Rahul to clarify whether the book had been published or not and why General Naravane did not go to the court if his book was not allowed to be published.

Claiming that there is no such book and a magazine can write anything, Home Minister Amit Shah said Surya has not questioned the patriotism of any party and that he was referring to President's Addresses during the UPA government having no mention of nationalism, culture and language, among other things.

The Leader of the Opposition, however, continued claiming that the government did not allow its publication and that he was quoting from 'The Caravan', which has published an article based on the excerpts from the book, even as Birla ruled that MPs cannot quote from newspaper or magazine articles and books.

Rahul insisted that he was talking about the President's Address and whenever he resumed his speech after disruption, he referred to Naravane. As the stalemate continued, Birla first adjourned the House till 3 pm. Modi and Shah were not in the House when the House re-assembled, though Singh took his seat.

Rahul said he was talking about national security and referred to the claims that Chinese tanks had reached Indian territory. Singh asked from where did Rahul collect the "imaginary" information while Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju alleged Rahul crossed a line by repeatedly ignoring the ruling of the Speaker.

"The soldiers know what has happened. You cannot hide it anymore," he claimed, and once again the House was adjourned till 4 pm.

When the House assembled again, senior BJP MP Jagadambika Pal was in the Chair and he urged Rahul to stick to the contents of the President's speech. Rahul then claimed that the prime minister and the defence minister were "not comfortable", to which Pal said they were "not uncomfortable".

"If as you are saying the comments are not uncomfortable for the prime minister and the defence minister, then they would let me quote from the book. It is uncomfortable for them," Rahul said. As both sides were unrelenting, Pal adjourned the House for the day.

Sharp rise in online posts taken down by B'luru cops

Social media, from Page 1

"Delayed replies from intermediaries (platforms), destruction of devices used, use of VPNs and delays in getting details from abroad, if such content posted from other countries, are some of the challenges we face every day," another senior official explained.

The police have also taken up preventive arrests by identifying habitual offenders. In 2025 alone, 37 such arrests were made.

Officials said preventive arrests are taken up on repeated offenders who keep on posting content that violates existing laws.

"Previous cases booked, social media handle (s) repeatedly involved in posting on the cyberspace are also identified and taken action," they added.

14-yr-old boy falls into open BWSSB chamber, dies

BWSSB, from Page 1

The Kaggalipura police have registered a case of negligence against an engineer and other BWSSB staff and are investigating.

Senior BWSSB officials said they were unsure how the cap of the chamber was removed.

Officials said BWSSB had not taken up any work at the site in the recent past.

"We had closed the chamber with a concrete cap after some work about one year ago. However, there were no complaints that it was missing. Keeping a check on all the chambers is practically difficult," a senior BWSSB official told *DH*.

However, BWSSB has set up a high level inquiry committee under the Chief Engineer to investigate. "We are deeply saddened by the death.

We have set up a committee to study the matter. The committee will visit the spot and based on its report, strict action will be taken against whoever is at fault," BWSSB chairman Dr Ramprasat Manohar V, told *DH*.

Trump announces trade deal; Modi thanks tariff cut

Trump, from Page 1

India recently refrained from showing up at a ceremony held in Davos, Switzerland, on January 22 for the signing of the charter of the 'Board of Peace', a body envisaged by Trump as a global peace-making platform.

Just a few days after Trump returned as the 47th American president, Modi had met him at the White House on February 13, and the two leaders had agreed that India and the US would negotiate a trade deal.

The relations between the two sides, however, came under stress, not only due to Trump's tariff tirade against India, but also because of the US president's bonhomie with the civil and military leaders of Pakistan and his repeated claims about brokering a truce to end the four-day cross-border military flare-up between the two South Asian nations in May 2025.

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल. 33004/99 REGD. No. D.L. - 33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL LAND ACQUISITION OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY
HOSADURGA - HOLALKERE SECTION
(NATIONAL HIGHWAY 173)
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS, K.R. CIRCLE, PWD COMPOUND,
BENGALURU – 560001

PUBLIC NOTICE
(UNDER SECTION 3(G) OF N.H. ACT 1956)

S.O. 281 (E), Date: 20.01.2026 - Whereas by the notification of the Governmentof India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, **4305(E) Dated: 23/09/2025,** published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3Aof the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/ four laning etc.,), maintenance, management and operation **of NH-173 in the stretch of land from Km. 116.800 to Km. 149.070 (Hosadurga - Holalkere Section) in the district of CHITRADURGA in the state of KARNATAKA;**

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in **"Deccan Herald" and "Vijaya Karnataka" both dated 27.09.2025;** under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas the Competent Authority has received objections filed under Section 3-C, considered andsettled the same appropriately;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shallvest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances. The land owners can submit their statements if any, along with relevant property documents to the below address.

Name of the Villages	Enquiry Date and Time	The place where the land owners / interested persons have to appear & submit / their claims
HOSADURGA TALUK: Beesanahalli, Heruru	16.02.2026 12.00 PM to 2.00 PM	Office of the Special Land Acquisition officer & Competent Authority, K.R. Cirle, PWD Compound, Bangalore-01.

Sd/-
SPECIAL LAND ACQUISITION OFFICER
AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY,
NH-173, HOSADURGA - HOLALKERE SECTION
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS, K.R. CIRCLE,
PWD COMPOUND, BANGALORE – 560001.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling within the stretch of land from Km. 116.800 to Km. 149.070 (Hosadurga - Holalkere Section) of NH 173 in the district of CHITRADURGA in the state of KARNATAKA.

STATE: KARNATAKA — DISTRICT: CHITRADURGA

Sl. No.	Survey Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area in Hectare	Name of the Land Owner / Interested Person
1	2	3	4	5	6
Taluk: HOSADURGA					
Village: Beesanahalli					
1	48/1	Private	Dry	0.06	P Nagendrappa S/o Palaya Mavinakatte, Nooralasaab S/o Mahuboob, R Ramappa S/o Kokarangappa M Srinivas S/o T Mallappa 48/5
Village: Heruru					
2	53/5	Private	Dry	0.03	Mahamud Kalandar S/o Mujeb Ahemad
			Total	0.09	

[F. No. RWNH-1 20371 /14/2021 -22/KNT Izone-III-I/3D]
SAIKH AMINKHAN, Director

DECCAN HERALD
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A crime without consequence

The Karnataka High Court's decision to take *suo motu* cognisance of rampant illegal sand mining and to signal that a court-monitored probe may be required is, on the one hand, welcome and, on the other, deeply unsettling. It amounts to an acknowledgement that the state's enforcement machinery has failed so comprehensively that judicial intervention has become unavoidable. What sharpens the concern is not merely the scale of the offence, but the extraordinary admission by the state's Home Minister, G Parameshwara himself. When the minister in charge of law and order publicly confesses his "helplessness" in tackling the sand mafia, the issue ceases to be about illegal mining alone. It becomes a question of who really governs Karnataka. The High Court's reasoning is unassailable in its clarity: when the home minister feels powerless, there can be no reasonable expectation that the police or district administration will succeed. Law enforcement functions on authority, institutional backing, and political will. Strip it of these, and it becomes ornamental, much like the state's sand-mining STF that exists largely on paper. More troubling is Parameshwara's admission that "many influential people" are involved, cutting across party lines. This raises an unavoidable question: if the home minister cannot name or act against this lobby, does it not imply that it enjoys protection from higher quarters?

The High Court's intervention in Karnataka's illegal sand mining points to an abject failure of state enforcement

Illegal sand mining is not a petty offence. It is an ecological and economic crime of staggering proportions. Rivers such as the Krishna, Cauvery, and Tungabhadra are being ravaged, groundwater tables depleted, crops damaged by dust, bridges weakened, and lives lost to reckless mining trucks. The exchequer bleeds while a parallel economy flourishes, fuelled by violence, intimidation, and black money. The rot is such that even legislators are not insulated. On the floor of the House, an MLA has stated that threats were issued merely for speaking against illegal sand mining. When elected representatives themselves fear retaliation, the vulnerability of ordinary citizens is self-evident.

A minister who admits he cannot protect the state's resources, enforce the law, or shield whistle-blowers has forfeited the legitimacy of his office. How can police or district officers be expected to act with courage when the home minister himself publicly surrenders before a mafia or entrenched lobby? When the guardian of law and order abdicates authority, the state has already lost. The High Court has struck the match. A court-monitored investigation by a Special Investigation Team is now imperative. Anything less would confirm that in Karnataka, the sand mafia is more powerful than the state itself.

India's coasts face a plastic stress test

Recent reports of plastic waste from Southeast Asian countries such as Thailand, Malaysia, and Myanmar being found in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands reveal how pollution is taking a distressing, 'globalised' turn. The islands, often identified with pristine beaches, have been grappling with plastic debris that adversely impacts their environment. Litter – plastic bottles and bags, parts of fishing gear, and microplastics – impacting reefs, marine species, and food chains has been a global problem. Every year, more than 11 million metric tonnes of plastic are estimated to enter the oceans. Waste washed ashore from other countries adds a layer to the crisis in India and underlines, yet again, the rampant abuse of oceans in the name of tourism. It appears that no place is now immune to the litter surge.

India was once seen as a dumping ground for plastic refuse, but the import of waste has come down after the country imposed restrictions from 2019. While there are reports of surreptitious arrival of polluting material, they are not in large quantities. But with a long coastline, India remains vulnerable; it has to cope with polluting trash that gets naturally dumped on its shores, damaging the environment and posing serious threats to marine life. Many of the country's beaches have been reporting large-scale trashing, but efforts to keep the coasts clean have worked only in isolation. There is no room for complacency. Mitigation has to be anchored in a focused, continuous drive where the waste is efficiently collected and recycled. Existing systems are not equipped to handle these volumes. Furthermore, clean-up efforts cannot be successful without the involvement of local communities.

Waste on the shores signals rising global pollution. The crisis calls for community-driven mitigation

What is visible on the shores and the seafloors across the world is a mere portion of the millions of tonnes of plastic waste generated every year. Conservative estimates say about 25,000 tonnes of plastic waste, in various forms, are generated every day in India, contributing to a pile of over nine million tonnes a year; only about 60% of it is recycled. The four 'R's prescribed as the long-term approach – reduce, reuse, recycle, and recover – present a compelling model, but have not translated into results on the ground. That even the enforcement of legal bans on the use of plastic bags remains patchy reveals the extent of the problem. Without targeted strategies at the local, national, and global levels, this becomes a race against time, the results of which will shape the health of the environment and future generations.

BETWEEN THE LINES

Budget roadmap skips the inclusion turn

The development vision does not go beyond the messaging to address inequality and gaps in social investment

INDIRA HIRWAY

The 85-minute presentation of the Union Budget 2026-27 by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman did not dive into broad strategies or the overall approach underlying the myriad schemes and the numbers. In that sense, we heard a slew of items on the agenda, but not with the clarity on critical directional issues required at this time of international turmoil and its cascading effects that are showing up on the domestic economy. Instead, the FM spent too much time on the minutiae of the expenditure on different schemes. There was no unfolding of the big picture.

The main expenditure is on capital goods. The budget proposes to spend Rs 17.15 lakh crore on creating capital assets. This is, clearly, a positive takeaway. Capex builds for the future and is an investment that is meant to deliver long-term physical assets offering a multiplier effect; it can also attract private investment as it stimulates demand in the economy. As regards the budget expenditure, the highest share in the total expenditure is on interest payment or debt servicing (26.2%), followed by allocations made to the defence (14.67%) and transport (11.2%) sectors. We remain low in expenditure on the critical sectors of education, health, and social welfare.

The emphasis on Viksit Bharat is to be welcomed, but there remain important questions in terms of the direction of this development and what the nature of this development ought to be in an India where inequality remains high, health services are poor, and the gaps in education pose many challenges that have been highlighted time and again. This raises the question of priorities, considering that with a population which is not healthy and is poorly educated, the nation will struggle to place itself on the path to its lofty, stated goals of development.

Our experience in the last decade shows that unless both the education and health sectors are placed under the government's management, their scope cannot cover the bottom 40% of the country's population. Yet, matters have moved in the reverse direction in recent years, and the Union Budget has been unable, or is unwilling, to take a bold stance on this. Note that the push towards privatisation of health, which is most visible in the rise of private equity investments in hospitals, is a trend that, in effect, works to raise the costs of treatment and reduce access to healthcare, not widen it.

Next, the expenditure on centrally sponsored schemes in the current year is much less than the expenditure

that was budgeted last year. That is, it does not appear that the government is seriously pursuing these schemes. And where there is an increase, it has been marginal. Considering the price rise, one can state that overall, the expenditure on the centrally sponsored schemes has remained almost stagnant. This reveals a picture of schemes that cannot attain their intended or advertised objectives.

The expenditure on scientific departments is a mere 1.04% of the budget expenditure. How will the country achieve the goals of Viksit Bharat without substantial investment in evidence-based, high-quality scientific research and innovation? Considering that India is lagging far behind other emerging countries in research and development, this number is worrying. Anecdotal evidence shows that scientific temper has taken a serious hit in the country, and money is reportedly being spent on research that may not meet the strict demands of modern science. A clear allocation with a cautionary note on where this money would go would have helped address these apprehensions.

Navigating the challenges

The Budget does not cover some of the key areas of concern where the government's intervention was being urgently sought. For instance, the struggles of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, the rising inequalities of wealth and income, and the fallout of climate change. The MSMEs are expected to play a critical role in the implementation of the recently signed free trade agreement between the European Union and India. The realisation of the landmark trade agreement will hinge on the efficiency with which India navigates the non-tariff barriers – the FTA requires that the production of goods is of a prescribed quality and compliant with the European bloc's stringent norms on environment and labour participation. In a country where the MSMEs have been found wanting in adherence to these norms, the Union Budget should have offered a policy direction, but it did not.

The road to Viksit Bharat will remain bumpy if the country fails to address its inequalities. Again, the Budget did not offer direction to bridge these gaps. The government, it appears, has limited its climate action strategies to the adoption of renewables, without assigning due priority to the massive threat of air pollution, flooding, and deforestation.

Unemployment has been on the rise in the country. The Union Budget does not engage with the problem either. Overall, this has been an effort anchored in pragmatism and messaging – a statement of guarded optimism that does not chart an assured course towards sustainable, inclusive development.

(The writer is a professor of Economics at the Centre For Development Alternatives, Ahmedabad, and Associate, Levy Economics Institute of Bard College, New York; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

A master plan, rerouted

My friend's journey to beat the crowd ended exactly where it began

RAJIV RAJENDRAN

During my college days in Bengaluru, commuting by bus was a high-stakes sport. Long before the days of the Metro, and with only a limited fleet of rickety red buses to choose from, the return journey often required "foot-boarding"—a precarious balancing act on the vehicle's edge. It demanded the grace of a ballerina to maintain stability and the courage of an army *jawan* to secure one's grip on the periphery, as traffic lurched unpredictably.

My core group of six or seven friends included AK, nicknamed "Googs" after we discovered his lethal googly on the cricket pitch. Tall, lanky, and bespectacled, Googs was our pre-Internet Wikipedia. He was the most studious among us, always ready with an inquisitive fact, an obscure reference or a quiet observation that caught us off guard.

One January afternoon, Googs proposed a "genius" plan to bypass the 4:00 pm peak-hour madness. "Nothing happens in the last period anyway," he reasoned with clinical certainty. He decided to slip out at 3:00 pm, secure a seat on the bus, and be home well before the rest of us were still fighting for a toehold on the foot-board.

At 4:15 pm, the rest of us trudged to the bus stop and squeezed onto a bus packed like sardines. As we braced ourselves for the familiar, harrowing journey, we spotted something astonishing: nestled in the back corner by the window, was Googs—fast asleep!

Once we managed to edge our way inside, we shook him awake. In between bouts of laughter and rising curiosity, we probed him to understand what had occurred. It turned out the bus followed a circular route – it merely operated uninterrupted during peak hours around a designated set of stops. Googs had boarded at 3:00 pm, claimed his prized seat, and promptly nodded off in the cool Bengaluru breeze. He slept through his stop and completed a full, merry circuit, arriving back at the college gate just in time to meet us. His master plan had resulted in a wonderful siesta that led him back to where his journey had begun.

Years later, I learned that Googs had joined a top national intelligence agency--a fitting career for a man of his instincts and interests. When we eventually reconnected in person, I immediately brought up the circular bus incident. He offered a classic, enigmatic smile, winked, and replied: "In my line of work, I can neither confirm nor deny the said incident."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Strengthen STEM beyond classrooms for women

Apropos your editorial 'Women in STEM, jobs must follow' (Feb 2), it is timely and enlightening. Until recently, STEM courses were male-dominated. It is heartening that women accounted for about 43% of STEM enrolments in the country. Unfortunately, this classroom strength is not translating into a near-equal percentage of women in STEM careers, primarily due to deep-rooted misogynistic prejudice. The sooner this false superiority is addressed, the better. Women have proven their capabilities in every field, and it is time for equal opportunities. As Charlotte Whitton said, "Whatever women do, they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good." It's time for equality in STEM jobs.
M Basavaraj, Davanagere

Visionary or vacuous?

The Union Budget 2026-27 is a masterclass in theatrical incrementalism. While the three *kartavyas* sound poetic, the fiscal math reveals worrying stagnation. Increasing public CAPEX to Rs 12.2 lakh crore is welcome, but it is a band-aid on a bullet wound given the fiscal deficit and debt-to-GDP ratio. The SME fund of Rs 10,000 crore is insufficient, and the STT hike is a predatory tax on retail participation. This budget offers rhetoric but lacks substance for grassroots wealth creation.
Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

For federal equity

The Union Budget 2026-27's fiscal prudence is commendable, but its allocation patterns raise concerns over federal equity. Karnataka, a significant tax contributor, received minimal targeted support. Policy measures, such as revised devolution formulas, are essential to foster balanced development. Without these, disparities may hinder national cohesion and long-term growth objectives like Viksit Bharat 2047.
Anand Jewoor, Kalaburagi

Save Chamundi Hill

The proposed development works atop Chamundi Hill in Mysuru under Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) have sparked protests from environmentalists, heritage experts, and citizens. The concerns are valid, given the hill's cultural and environmental significance. Authorities must respect the views and engage with stakeholders to arrive at a balanced scope of work, prioritising conservation over construction.
H R Bapu Satyanarayana, Mysuru

Casualty of 'dopamine economy'

I refer to 'India's reading class is shrinking' (Feb 2). The decline of India's reading class, as detailed by the authors, is a structural casualty of a "dopamine economy" that thrives on exhaustion. We must treat the preservation of reading time as a public health priority, reclaiming our mental spaces from algorithmic platforms that profit from our depleted attention spans.
Shreshta Hebbar, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

My government is neither derailed nor apathetic...Sometimes circumstances are such that in the face of lies, even truth appears helpless.

Siddaramaiah, Karnataka CM (On the BJP's charge that he was a helpless chief minister)

The truth is generally seen, rarely heard.
Robert Greene

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Judicial realism for menstrual rights

The failure to treat menstrual hygiene as a constitutional obligation has led to systemic exclusion at schools

ANSHUL DALMIA

The Supreme Court in the case of *Dr. Jaya Thakur v. Union of India* (2026) exposed an uncomfortable truth about India's school system: the State continues to treat menstrual hygiene as a peripheral welfare issue rather than a core constitutional obligation. This petition was filed by a social worker seeking basic but non-negotiable measures, such as free sanitary pads for girls in classes 6 to 12 and separate functional toilets in government-aided and residential schools. That such simple demands still need judicial intervention is in itself an indictment of poor menstrual and reproductive health governance in India.

The Court correctly identified what governments have long avoided admitting. The absence of menstrual hygiene facilities does not merely inconvenience students; it actively pushes girls out of school. Absenteeism during menstruation often turns into permanent dropouts. This is not accidental. It is the foreseeable result of administrative indifference wrapped in policy language.

What makes this case stand out is the Court's refusal to accept the often-repeated defence that 'policies already exist'. It is clear that India does not suffer from a shortage of schemes; it suffers from a lack of enforcement. By grounding menstrual health in constitutional guarantees such as equality, dignity, autonomy, privacy, and education, the Court made it clear that this was not merely about welfare delivery, but rights denial.

The Court's attention to intersectionality sharpens the critique. A menstruating girl with a disability faces layered exclusion, ranging from inaccessible washrooms and the lack of assistance to social stigma. These are not marginal failures affecting a few. They reveal how public systems are designed around an imagined "default" student: male, able-bodied, and economically secure. Everyone else is expected to adjust or drop out.

The equality analysis was further damning. Girls without access to toilets or sanitary products are disadvantaged twice – once as compared to boys, and second, as relative to girls who can afford private schools. The Court made it clear that the State could not claim to provide equal opportunity to education while allowing menstruation to become a structural barrier. This was held to be discrimination by design and not oversight.

The judgment rejected that menstrual hygiene is merely an infrastructural issue. Toilets and sanitary pads are necessary, but they are not sufficient. Schools remain deeply uncomfortable spaces for menstruating girls, shaped by silence, stigma, and ignorance. By stressing awareness and training (including the role of male teachers and students), the Court acknowledged that exclusion is cultural as much as physical.

Crucially, the judgment does something rare in social rights litigation. It does not stop at recognising menstrual dignity as part of the right to life under Article 21. It goes further and rethinks how courts should deal with social rights violations. Instead of issuing abstract declarations, vague directions, or relying solely on executive assurances, the Court designed a framework of shared accountability. District Education Officers must conduct regular inspections; Child Rights Commissions are tasked with oversight; and the Union government remains answerable for compliance.

A broken promise

Equally important is what the Court refused to do. It did not allow governments to hide behind the judicially-designed schemes or policies. The Court held that its directions establish minimum, enforceable standards that operate alongside current policies. In effect, the Court signalled that incremental progress is no defence against ongoing constitutional harm.

This case should not be dismissed as judicial overreach. It is judicial realism. Menstrual dignity is not a niche concern; it is a constitutional stress test of whether equality and education mean anything in practice.

The path forward is clear. Governments must treat menstrual hygiene as core educational infrastructure, not an optional add-on. Schools must be audited with the same seriousness as examination results and admissions. Compliance data must be public, and oversight bodies must be empowered. Most importantly, legislatures must step in to set enforceable standards so that courts are not forced to repeatedly intervene in matters of basic dignity. If the State continues to respond only after litigation, courts will continue to fill the vacuum: not out of activism, but necessity.

If adolescent girls are forced to choose between managing their bodies and staying in school, the violation is already complete. The Court has shown what serious social-rights adjudication can look like. Whether governments respond with action or wait for the next petition will determine how seriously we take the Constitution's promise of equal education. A Constitution that cannot ensure equal access for girls in classrooms is not being interpreted boldly; it is unfortunately being honoured too late.

(The writer teaches Constitutional Law and Constitutional Debate at the Jindal Global Law School)

Disability rights live in court orders, still absent from government files

ANCHAL BHATHEJA

The Punjab and Haryana High Court's decision quashing disciplinary proceedings against a Haryana Roadways employee who acquired 70% disability during service was not an instance of judicial activism but of judicial exhaustion. The law on this subject is neither new nor ambiguous.

Section 20 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, explicitly protects employees from discrimination and guarantees job security to those who acquire a disability during service. It prohibits any government establishment from dispensing with, reducing in rank, or denying promotion to an employee on the basis of disability. Every government establishment is required to provide reasonable accommodation and a barrier-free, conducive work environment. If an employee becomes unsuitable for their existing post due to disability, the employer must shift them to a suitable post with the same pay and service benefits; if no such post is available, the employee must be retained on a supernumerary post until a suitable post arises or until they reach superannuation. These provisions are mandatory and leave no discretion for the administration to ignore or circumvent them.

In the case at hand, the petitioner joined service in 1986, was regularised in 1995, and was promoted in 2002. During service, he suffered a brain haemorrhage and was medically assessed as having 70% disability. The disability certificate, issued by a medical board, was valid until 2029—the very year of his superannuation. He was physically incapable of performing the duties of a painter, which involved prolonged standing and walking.

Rather than providing reasonable accommodation under Section 20, the State of Haryana rejected the employee's request for supernumerary retention on the ground that his disability was not "permanent" and instead issued a chargesheet for unauthorised absence, treating the RPwD Act not as binding law but as a mere policy suggestion—a clear act of institutional defiance of settled legal provisions.

Justice Sandeep Moudgil's judgment firmly rejected this approach. The Court held that the petitioner squarely fell within the definition of a "person with disability" under Section 2 (s) of the Act, and that insisting on a permanent disability certificate was legally unsustainable and contrary to the purpose of the legislation. Where disability persists for the remainder of service, the distinction between "temporary" and "permanent" becomes meaningless.

This reasoning is consistent with precedent. As early as 2003, the Supreme Court in *Kunal Singh vs Union of India* held that an employee acquiring a disability during service cannot be invalidated out of service and must be protected against economic loss. Social welfare legislation, the Court stressed, must be interpreted liberally to advance its purpose, not frustrate it.

More recently, the Supreme Court in *Ch Joseph vs Telangana State Road Transport Corporation* (2025) reiterated that compulsory retirement or removal of employees on the ground of disability—without exploring reasonable accommodation or redeployment—is impermissible. The obligation to adjust or retain disabled employees is not optional; administrative convenience cannot override statutory rights.

The Punjab and Haryana High Court itself has echoed this principle in *Joginder Kaur vs CAT*, holding that denial of supernumerary posts to employees acquiring disability amounts to a direct violation of disability law. These are not isolated rulings—they form a consistent and settled line of authority.

This reasoning makes the State's conduct in the present case particularly indefensible. Issuing a chargesheet for unauthorised absence despite medical incapacity amounts to a punitive response to disability. It reflects a bureaucratic instinct to discipline first and assess legality later. Such action is not merely harsh; it is unlawful.

Equally troubling was the State's reliance on photographic evidence to claim that the employee was "mobile". Courts have repeatedly cautioned against such superficial assessments. Disability is functional, contextual, and job-specific. Brief mobility does not negate medical findings about incapacity to perform sustained physical labour. To argue otherwise trivialises disability and misapplies the law.

Justice Moudgil's observation that "an employee who has devoted the prime of his life to public service ought not to be met with rigidity at the moment of his greatest vulnerability" must be read as a rebuke to administrative culture. When the Court warns that service jurisprudence risks losing its "moral and constitutional compass", it signals a deeper erosion: the normalisation of legal non-compliance until judicial correction.

The broader question remains: why must disabled employees repeatedly approach constitutional courts to enforce Section 20? Why does statutory clarity fail to translate into administrative action?

The answer: Departments act as though accommodation is a concession and litigation an acceptable filter. This shifts the burden of enforcement onto those least able to bear it—employees already grappling with illness, financial insecurity, and institutional neglect.

Courts are not primary grievance redressal forums. When they are forced into this role, it signals systemic administrative failure, not judicial activism. If the State truly wishes to be a "model employer", it must internalise Section 20 of the RPwD Act as a constitutional obligation, not a litigable hurdle. Until then, judgments like this will continue to expose an uncomfortable truth: in India, disability rights are secure not in government files, but in court orders.

(The writer is a research fellow – Disability Inclusion and Access, at Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy)

A years-long effort to convince Washington of religious persecution is shifting foreign policy towards the West African nation, with major consequences

DIONNE SEARCEY, ZOLAN KANNO-YOUNGS, RUTH MACLEAN AND ERIC SCHMITT

A man (left) shows a piece of debris he found after a missile attack in Jabo, Nigeria. Rev Ezekiel Dachomo (right), who has filmed himself jumping into graves to protest the murder of Christians in Nigeria. NYT

Faith and firepower: Inside Trump's turn on Nigeria

Top advisers from the Trump administration sat at the head of a giant wooden table in an office near the White House in late October listening as religious activists described attacks on Christian churches and pastors in Nigeria. The activists wanted President Donald Trump to do something about it.

Three days later, the president threatened to enter Nigeria "guns-a-blazing" to avenge what he has called a "Christian genocide." Then, on Christmas Day, Trump launched Tomahawk missiles at "terrorist scum" he said were responsible for killing Nigerian Christians.

The strike was the explosive outcome of an intense, years long push led by Christian activists, Republican lawmakers and American celebrities seeking US intervention in a long-simmering security crisis in Nigeria.

Thousands are killed annually in Nigeria, and the victims include large numbers of Christians and Muslims. The violence involves battles over land, kidnappings for ransom, sectarian tensions and terrorism, but the activists wanted Trump to see the conflict through a single lens: the persecution of Christians.

Now the activists have seized on his support to orchestrate a rapid shift in US foreign policy toward Nigeria, with major consequences for the West African nation, including the threat of more bombings.

"Our challenge," said Nina Shea, an activist and the former commissioner for the US Commission on International Religious Freedom, "was to break through the narrative that this was not religious-based."

In Davos, Switzerland, on January 22, Trump praised the December strikes. A congressional spending measure released last month would condition half of US aid to Nigeria on whether the country has done enough to stop the violence, advance "religious freedom" and investigate "jihadist terror groups." Trump told *The New York Times* recently that he would approve more strikes if Christians continued to be killed, and senior US leaders were in Nigeria's capital to announce a new, closer military partnership between the two nations.

For the Christian activists, Trump's support has been the rightful outcome of a mission one key US Congress member described as a calling from God. For the Nigerian government, correcting the record on who bears the brunt of the violence has become less important than making concessions to Trump.

For years, the Christian activists had tried to get the Biden administration to redesignate Nigeria a Country of Particular Concern, a category reserved for nations where religious freedom is threatened, making them vulnerable to sanctions.

Trump had put Nigeria on the list during his first term, but the Biden administration lifted the designation in 2021. The State Department's report on religious freedom in Nigeria that year said there were mass killings of Christians and Muslims but did not single out Christians as a singular target. The return of Trump offered a new opening.

Armed with gruesome anecdotes and shocking but in some cases unreliable data on the number of Nigerian Christians killed for their faith, two dozen activists from groups dedicated to exposing Christian persecution throughout the world, such as the international organisation Aid to the Church in Need, pursued various Trump officials. The Rev Wilfred C Anagbe, a prominent bishop from the Middle Belt of Nigeria, a central area where the mostly Muslim north meets the mostly Christian south, was invited to testify on Capitol Hill last March. He told members of a House subcommittee on Africa that "the experience of the Nigerian Christians today can be summed up as that of a Church under Islamist extermination."

Brutal attacks are also perpetrated against Muslims, including herders who are often nomadic and don't have political representation, said Matthew Page, a former diplomat and a Nigeria expert. "The extent to which they are victims is just never revealed," he said.

Religious groups on Capitol Hill circulated stories about the Yelwata attack to get lawmakers' attention. One that resonated, lawmakers said, was an article in *The Free Press*, founded by media executive Bari Weiss. The article focused heavily on the killing of Christians. By fall, Republican Sen Ted Cruz had introduced a measure calling for sanctions against Nigeria.

The atrocity at Yelwata was a breakthrough moment for the activists, but not everyone in the Trump administration saw the massacre as proof of genocide. Massad Boulos, Trump's Africa adviser who spent decades selling trucks in Nigeria, arrived in Rome in October for a meeting with Nigeria's president, Bola Tinubu, to discuss strengthening US-Nigeria ties. Boulos said afterward that Islamist groups were killing more Muslims than Christians and that the Trump administration understood the complexity of the violence plaguing Africa's most populous country.

Trump told the *Times* last month that "Muslims are being killed also in Nigeria, but it's mostly Christians."

Back in Washington, anti-persecution groups secured the meeting with Trump officials near the White House just as Republicans were gathering for the annual Conservative Political Action Conference.

Sitting at the grand wooden table, they outlined their concerns to Sebastian Gorka, the National Security Council senior director for counterterrorism, who has falsely argued that violence is a fundamental part of Islam.

On October 31, Trump took to Truth Social to announce he had officially put Nigeria back on the list, and then a short while later, he posted that he had ordered the Pentagon to begin planning potential military action.

Nigerian officials tried to counter the notion of a Christian genocide. Mohammed Idris, Nigeria's information minister, described Trump's claims as "false, baseless, despicable and divisive," and the foreign minister, Yusuf Tuggar, implied that the true goal was to destabilise Nigeria, take its resources and turn the African nation into a failed state.

In response to the Country of Particular Concern designation, a Nigerian delegation travelled to Washington to convince US officials of their government's efforts to bolster security.

However, accusations of genocide continued to spread.

On Christmas Day, Secretary of State Marco Rubio phoned Tuggar, Nigeria's foreign minister, for permission from Nigeria's president to launch missiles.

The missiles, valued at $32 million, hit northwest Nigeria, an overwhelmingly Muslim area hundreds of miles away from the Middle Belt. US military officials are still assessing damage but said that more than three dozen Islamic State group-affiliated terrorists were flushed out and later arrested by Nigerian authorities.

Residents have said the missiles hit empty fields and vacant militant hideouts.

Several activists said they were surprised by how far Trump went, pointing out that they had not explicitly pressed for military strikes. But they were pleased with the outcome. Boulos is now aligned with Trump's current approach to Nigeria, multiple US officials said. Faced with US pressure, Nigerian officials have stopped arguing with the Trump administration.

The New York Times

Madhav Gadgil: A gentle giant of Indian ecology

P G BABU

I am flooded with memories from my time as a research student of Prof Madhav Gadgil at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc). We used to see him--and his equally illustrious wife, Prof Sulochana Gadgil--regularly at the IISc swimming pool. IISc folklore has it that when the Institute wanted to recruit Prof Sulochana, a distinguished meteorologist from Harvard and MIT, it also solved the classic "two-body problem" by also recruiting Prof Madhav Gadgil from Harvard. He came from the lineage of the legendary mathematical biologist E O Wilson, renowned for his work on sociobiology, and was a legend in his own right.

At IISc, PhD students are required to clear an oral qualifier examination before proceeding with their thesis work. This examination board consists of experts from outside one's own department and often even outside the Institute. I had the good fortune—or perhaps misfortune, depending on the outcome of the exam—of having Prof Madhav Gadgil as my examiner. After trying to ease my nerves by asking a few general questions about my thesis topic, he gently led me to the blackboard.

He began with an apparently innocent query about my knowledge of biomass. I pleaded complete ignorance. He then proceeded to walk me through the fundamentals of renewable natural resource concepts – from the general notion of the biomass of a fish population in a pond to the growth path of that biomass, which turned out to follow a logistic growth equation. Mathematically, it was a differential equation, which, upon solution, yielded the growth equation of biomass. This went on, patiently and methodically, for another two or three hours. By then, I had lost all sense of time. That episode probably explains what first-principle thinking truly means.

After all this was over, he generously invited me to give a few seminars on renewable resource economics at the Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES) at IISc. Superficially, this appeared to be a great honour. In reality, it was his subtle way of making me understand the importance of renewable resources and nudging me to acquire the necessary depth of knowledge in the subject.

Though I thought it was a distraction at that time, decades later—when I began working on climate change issues—all of this came in handy. It was a joy to see the German students fill my lectures on natural resource economics with keen interest in distant, ecologically diverse Bayreuth in Bavaria. When I went on a forest tour with the ecology faculty there, I could readily connect their experiments in Bavarian 'managed' forests with insights drawn from forestry models I had studied while preparing for my CES seminars.

It is therefore no surprise to me that Prof Gadgil is celebrated as one of India's greatest ecologists, to whom we owe the first Biosphere Reserve tag for the Nilgiris and decades of principled policy work towards its preservation. What is perhaps less widely known is his association with the founding of the Centre for Theoretical Studies at IISc. The centre brought together scholars from across the world in disciplines such as anthropology and the philosophy of science. It was this centre that gave IISc a truly open and liberating academic culture, allowing students like us a glimpse into fields we would otherwise not have encountered in a predominantly science and engineering institution.

Such intellectual openness in him to other subjects is hardly surprising. He came from a social science family: his father, D R Gadgil, was Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission and a dominant figure in Indian economics and the founding director of the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics at Pune. His joint work with historian Ramachandra Guha, who used to cycle around the IISc campus during those years of their collaboration on the use and abuse of nature, which resulted in two monographs, is another pointer to what I am alluding to.

My lasting memory is that of standing in the middle of a Bavarian forest full of tall beech trees, remembering the equally tall Professor Madhav Gadgil and all that I learnt through his gentle yet firmly guided learning process during a brief period of my life. One note reverberated through me: the gratitude owed to the great scholars of our country, which can only be repaid by passing it all on to the next generations.

(The writer is Vice-Chancellor, Vidyashilp University, Bengaluru)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: FEBRUARY 1976

Early action on Havanur report: Dikshit

Bangalore, February 2
The Karnataka Government would take early action on the report of the Backward Classes Commission, headed by Mr. L. G. Havanur, Governor Uma Shankar Dikshit told the joint session of the State Legislature today. In a brief review of the administration, Mr. Dikshit said that the State had enjoyed considerable industrial harmony during the year. He said that land reforms had made considerable headway and that the entire operation would be completed by December 1976. Discussing the food problem, the Governor said that the Government plans to extend the informal rationing system.

25 YEARS AGO: FEBRUARY 2001

Musharraf calls up, PM thanks him for Pak's gesture

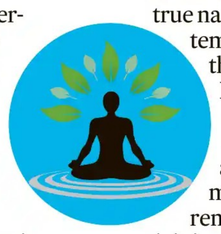
New Delhi, Feb 2
In the first direct political contact at the highest level between the two countries over the past 15 months, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee spoke to Pakistan's Chief Executive Gen Pervez Musharraf over telephone this evening to express gratitude to Islamabad for sending relief material for the victims of Gujarat earthquake. The five-minute long telephonic conversation that took place after Gen Musharraf rang up Mr Vajpayee was very cordial. Gen Musharraf called up the prime minister to convey his and his country's sympathy at the great loss of life caused by the earthquake.

OASIS | MIRLE KARTHIK

Three facets of human nature

The *Bhagavad Gita*, in the seventh chapter, speaks about the three different aspects of human nature, *Sattva, Rajas and Tamas*, the *Gunas* innate in human beings. Each of these imparts its own unique character and behavioural traits to man, the accumulated impressions of the actions in countless earlier births, manifesting as aforementioned.'

Sattva Guna is associated with all positive and divine qualities like truthfulness, straightforwardness, honesty, a sense of restraint in everything, a marked predilection for spiritual pursuits and so on. *Rajas* is marked by tendencies like constant activity to acquire name, wealth, position, etc., and a sense of pride, vanity and arrogance, among others. *Tamas* brings with it qualities like laziness, ignorance, disinterest, and so on.



It is these traits that determine and mark the trajectory of human life, either pulling man towards higher realms of existence or pulling him down to the depths of human wretchedness. This latter state, of human misery and suffering, the *Gita* says, is brought upon by man himself, a result of the predominance of the *Rajasic* and *Tamasic* aspects of his nature.

These two deleterious qualities are the stumbling blocks in man's journey, preventing him from realising the real goal of his birth, the presence of the divine spark in his own heart. These two qualities mask his original, true nature as a divine creature by tempting and deluding him with the myriad worldly attractions. It is like, as revered Swami Chinmayananda says, a man seeing a vertical pole at dusk and mistaking it for another man. As long as this ignorance remains, he will never realise that it is just a pole.

Similarly, as long as the concealing power of these two *Gunas* has the upper hand, man remains ensnared in their grip.

"It is extremely difficult to extricate oneself from their stranglehold," says the *Gita*. At the same time, it holds out hope saying "those who completely surrender themselves to the divine power, by consciously suppressing these two negative qualities and try to acquire more of the *Sattvic* characteristics will be able to cross the formidable barriers of sense attractions and move towards higher levels of existence.

As for those who succumb to the pull of the other two *Gunas*, they sink into the morass of aimless, empty, unprincipled existence, doing all prohibited and beastly things, the *Naradhamas* (lowliest among men) and *Mudhas* (stupid, brainless), who bring about their own downfall, says the *Gita* stridently.

Manipur: BJP picks observer, boosting govt formation hopes

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Taking a concrete step towards the formation of a government in strife-torn Manipur, the BJP on Monday announced general secretary Tarun Chugh as an observer to the state, as the imposition of President's Rule completes a year in a few days.

"The BJP Parliamentary Board has appointed Tarun Chugh, national general secretary, as central observer for the election of the Legislature Party leader in Manipur," read a notification by national general secretary Arun Singh.

The development comes amid several MLAs from the state being in Delhi to discuss government formation.

Sources said the party leadership was keen on a chief minister and two deputy CMs. A Meitei face is expected to be named the CM, and a Naga and a Kuki MLA will be named their deputies.

President's Rule was imposed in the state, where ethnic violence had broken out in 2023, on February 13, 2025. The BJP is keen to form a government before a year of that is completed, so that it does not have to seek an extension.

Legislators from the state have been visiting the national capital since December last year to hold discussions.

On January 24, some of them were in Delhi with former CM Biren Singh and state president Adhikarimayum Sharda Devi. A week earlier, Biren Singh met Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Mamata takes TMC's fight over voter roll revision to Delhi

Bengal CM confronts cops, storms out of meeting with EC

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee addresses the media along with some SIR-affected families and party leaders outside the EC office, in New Delhi, Monday. PTI

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee on Monday called the Election Commission "very arrogant" as she led some of the 'victims' of the SIR of the electoral rolls into a meeting with the poll panel, but stormed out alleging humiliation.

Mamata entered Nirvachan Sadan wearing a black shawl as a mark of protest against what she described as the "arbitrary, opaque, and coercive" process of revising the electoral rolls. Others in her entourage also donned black, including people whom the EC had allegedly declared 'dead' and removed from the rolls when publishing the draft voters' list on December 16 at the end of the enumeration phase. Family members of people who reportedly died due to anxiety caused by the SIR in West Bengal were also present.

TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee accompanied Mamata.

Earlier in the day, Mamata and Trinamool members in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha confronted Delhi Police personnel deployed outside the West Bengal government's guest houses, where the 'victims' of the electoral roll revision had been staying after travelling from different parts of the state. In view of the "aggressive deployment" of Delhi Police around the guest houses, a 22-member team of West Bengal Police was scheduled to arrive in the national capital late on Monday to "ensure the security of the Chief Minister".

After abruptly leaving her meeting with Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, Mamata accused the poll panel of using the SIR in West Bengal to give the BJP an advantage over the TMC in the Assembly elections.

Sources in New Delhi, however, said that the CEC and the two other Election Commissioners gave the TMC leaders a patient hearing and noted down their concerns. But when the CEC began to respond, the TMC leaders repeatedly interrupted him and left in a huff.

"So many people have died due to the SIR of the electoral rolls. The EC is responsible. They are working at the behest of the BJP," Mamata alleged while addressing media persons outside Nirvachan Sadan.

"We told them we would fight them on the ground. You have the power of the BJP; we have the power of the people. We boycotted the meeting. They insulted us, humiliated us," she said, adding, "I have not seen this type of Election Commission in my long career; they are very arrogant."

West Bengal govt urges SC to junk ED plea over I-PAC raid

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The West Bengal government has urged the Supreme Court to dismiss a writ petition the Enforcement Directorate (ED) filed regarding the raid at political consultancy firm I-PAC in Kolkata, contending that admitting the plea would set a dangerous precedent.

The state government also contended that the plea was "not maintainable" in fact or in law under Article 32 of the Constitution, and should "be dismissed at the threshold with exemplary costs".

On January 15, dealing with the ED's writ petition claiming obstruction by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the court had said that "it is a very serious matter".

The state government's affidavit said the ED's writ petition did not disclose, even on a bare reading, the infringement of any fundamental right of any of the petitioners, and therefore, they could not invoke the apex court's jurisdiction.

The affidavit also said the writ petition appeared to contain a disputed question of fact. It also asked the apex court not to look into the matter, because a question of infringement of fundamental rights did not and could not arise in it.

The state government contended that the ED did not have the fundamental right to file a writ petition before the apex court, and also questioned the "parallel proceedings" before the Calcutta High Court.

"The said writ petition does not contain any specific or cogent averment establishing or even alleging the involvement of the answering respondent in the matters complained of. In the absence of any such specific pleadings, the allegations/contentions sought to be raised against the answering respondent are vague, baseless, and bad in law," the affidavit said.

It also said that the state should be struck off the array of parties to the writ petition.

BJP leaders slam Rahul for demoralising Army

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

As heated exchanges took place on the floor of the Lok Sabha on Monday, several BJP leaders — including Union ministers Kiren Rijiju and Pralhad Joshi, besides Ravi Shankar Prasad — criticised Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and said he was questioning the Indian Army.

Kiren Rijiju

While Rijiju said Rahul must speak of the land that India lost in the 1950s when the Congress was in power, Prasad said he kept pushing his point despite the Speaker's decision on the matter.

Rijiju said Rahul was once again defaming India.

"He is making fun of the country's defence and foreign policy, which are very sensitive subjects, and wants to bring them to the public domain. What the defence minister speaks with the Army Chief about, or what the defence minister speaks to the prime minister about — are these matters of public discourse? Rahul Gandhi is employing a well-thought-out strategy to defame the country," said Rijiju after the House was adjourned for the day.

He said large swathes of land were taken over by China in 1959 and 1962 during the Congress tenure, adding: "He (Rahul) should apologise for that. Will he be able to bring back Aksai Chin and the land in Arunachal and Ladakh that are gone?"

He added: "National security is important. Don't play with it or weaponise it."

BJP spokesperson Rav Shankar Prasad said Rahul was trying to demoralise the Indian Army.

"He has time and again questioned the Army. He asked for proof after Balakot and Uri. He has used the Army to embarrass the government. As far as the Army chief he has mentioned is concerned, there are several videos where he said India has lost not an inch to China," Prasad told reporters outside Parliament.

Joshi, meanwhile, said Rahul did not listen to the Speaker's decision on the matter: "You cannot mention a book that has not been published. And despite a ruling from the Chair, repeating the matter was an irresponsible behaviour on his part."

Rahul accuses BJP of gagging him on China debate

Says former Army chief's memoir reveals truth about political leadership

LoP in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi with Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, during the Budget session of Parliament, in New Delhi, on Monday. PTI

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday accused the ruling BJP of not allowing him to quote from former Army chief Gen M M Naravane's unpublished memoirs in the House because it would expose the "reality" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh "letting down" the military during the conflict with China in 2020.

Rahul, whose remarks during the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address led to a face-off between the Opposition and Treasury benches and House adjournment, said he wanted to read out "2-3 lines" from the book "Four Stars of Destiny" in the House that would "make everything clear".

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said the RSS-BJP's ideological foundation "rests on concealing facts", which was why this "cowardly" Modi government was "dodging answers" on serious questions of national security raised by Rahul in Parliament.

"Naravane ji has written about the PM and Rajnath Singh *ji* clearly in his book, which has appeared in an article, and I am quoting from that article. They are scared because if it comes out, the truth of Narendra Modi *ji* and Rajnath Singh *ji* will be revealed. What happened to the 56-inch chest when China was advancing?" Rahul told reporters in Parliament House.

Insisting a matter of national security had been raised by "a serious leader of our forces", he said it referred to Gen Naravane's conversation with Modi and Singh, and their responses.

"All I want to say in the House is what the (former) Army Chief has written, what Modi-ji told him, what Rajnath Singh told him, what order they gave. I don't know why they are so scared," he said, adding that Gen Naravane comment, that not an inch of land had been lost to China, is a separate issue. What mattered was what the PM and the defence minister said, Rahul claimed.

"The country's leader is supposed to give direction. The country's leader is not supposed to run away from decisions and leave them on other people's shoulders; that is what the PM has done," he said.

Plea on caste data procedure in 2027 Census nixed

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to consider a plea questioning the procedure to be adopted to record, classify, and verify the caste data of citizens in the 2027 General Census.

A bench, however, asked the Centre and the office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner to consider the suggestions made by the petitioner Aakash Goel, an academician, in this regard.

Senior advocate Mukta Gupta, representing the petitioner, contended that a transparent questionnaire, to be used for recording, classifying, and verifying the caste details of the citizens, has to be placed in the public domain.

She contended that the Directorate of Census Operations has not disclosed the criteria for recording the caste identity of citizens "notwithstanding the acknowledgement that caste enumeration has extended beyond the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes this time".

The court said that there is "no predetermined data" to identify the caste data.

"The census exercise is regulated under the Census Act, 1958, and the 1990 Rules framed thereunder, which empowers the respondent authorities to determine the particulars and manners of census operations," the bench said.

SUPREME COURT

"The census exercise is regulated under the Census Act, 1958 and the 1990 Rules framed thereunder which empowers the respondent authorities to determine the particular and manners of census operations.

'No reason to doubt'

"We have no reason to doubt that respondent authority, with aid and assistance of domain experts, must have evolved a robust mechanism to rule out any mistake as apprehended by the petitioner and several like-minded persons. We find the petitioner has raised some relevant issues through a representation to the Registrar General of Census operations as well," the bench added.

Subsequently, the court asked the authorities concerned to consider the suggestions and dismissed the PIL.

The 2027 Census, officially the 16th national census, will be the first to include comprehensive caste enumeration since 1931 and the country's first fully digital census.

Oppn raises doubts over Pawar death

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Days after Maharashtra's deputy chief minister and NCP president Ajit Pawar died in a plane crash, Opposition parties — including the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) and the Congress — raised serious questions over the accident. Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut even drew parallels with Justice Brijgopal Harkishan Loya's death.

Sanjay Raut

The Congress, which heads the Opposition I.N.D.I.A bloc, and the Sena (UBT), its Maha Vikas Aghadi partner in Maharashtra, have openly aired suspicions over the accident.

Sena (UBT) member Raut alleged that the BJP had threatened Ajit Pawar after he showed interest in the NCP-NCP(SP) merger.

"Something did happen behind the curtains. Ajit Dada expressed his desire to return home (after reconciling with Sharad Pawar), following which BJP leaders allegedly threatened him with files from the irrigation scam. Ajit Pawar responded to these threats, and just 10 days later, he died mysteriously," Raut claimed.

Congress Legislature Party leader Vijay Wadettiwar claimed that 80% of the people in Maharashtra believed something suspicious was going on. "Why was the pilot changed at the last moment? How can negligence occur in the case of such a senior leader? NCP leaders should demand that Prime Minister Narendra Modi order an investigation," he said.

Artificial limbs on table spark uproar

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Rajya Sabha witnessed uproar on Monday during the discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, when BJP-nominated member C Sadanandan Master dramatically placed his artificial limbs on the table during his maiden speech.

This sparked a heated exchange with CPM leaders and led to a point of order.

The Kerala-based MP, a schoolteacher-turned-politician, made the striking display while recounting an attack he allegedly suffered three decades ago, which he attributed to CPM workers.

Initiating the discussion, Master said he wanted to show "before the nation and the people what democracy is".

BJP MP C Sadanandan Master speaks in the Rajya Sabha, with his artificial limbs seen on the desk. PTI

"Those who were roaring about democracy committed an attack upon me 31 years ago in Kerala. I was returning home when organised criminals caught me from behind, put me down on the road and cut my legs, shouting Inquilab Zindabad," Master said while seated due to his disability.

However, the display of prosthetic limbs on the table immediately drew objections from the Opposition benches.

CPM leader John Brittas rose to raise a point of order against showing such objects in the House, prompting Master to turn the tables on him.

"You are always talking about democracy, tolerance and humanity. Your commitment is rooted in political violence, which is not good for democracy," Master said, urging Brittas not to be intolerant.

The artificial limbs were later removed from the table following Brittas' point of order, but not before the moment had created an uproar in the Upper House.

"You (Chairman) have banned the display of objects. He (Master) has been coming to the House for so many days, walking with artificial limbs. It is unfortunate that he lost them. Somebody who sits beside him is a lawyer... displays it on the table," Brittas said.

Chairman CP Radhakrishnan said the artificial limbs have been removed from the table. "Let you follow the same strictness, and I want to see you have the same stand."

Master concluded his intervention with a pointed remark, "I regret I could not stand while making my maiden speech due to torture by CPM."

Leader of the House JP Nadda later urged the Chair to expunge 'undesirable' words used by Brittas.

DMK to kick-start seat-sharing talks with allies next week

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK is likely to kick-start seat-sharing negotiations with allies for the 2026 assembly elections from the second week of February, even as the party is planning to further strengthen the Secular Progressive Alliance (SPA) by inducting new partners.

Sources told *DH* that the DMK will constitute a committee consisting of senior leaders to negotiate with alliance partners this week following which the allies will be invited one by one for initial talks.

"The first round of talks with allies – starting with Congress – is likely to begin next week. We hope to finish the talks and finalise the number of seats to each party in about two weeks' time. The goal is to finish this job before the party's state-wide conference in Tiruchirapalli on March 8," a senior DMK leader told *DH*.

The development comes amid assertion by and Chief Minister M K Stalin that the DMK-led alliance in Tamil Nadu was "strong and united" amid a strain in the relationship between his party and its long-standing ally, Congress. The differences between the two parties are being ironed out, sources said, adding that the committees of both the DMK and Congress will decide on the numbers.

The "delay" in the constitution of the committee – Congress formed a five-member panel in November – by the DMK was cited as one of the reasons for the friction between the two parties. "The committee will be formed this week. There was no delay as the usual practice is to begin such work in the first week of February," the DMK leader said.

As part of the efforts to strengthen the alliance, the DMK has reached out to late actor Vijayakanth's DMDK with an offer of six assembly seats and possibly a Rajya Sabha berth. But the actor's wife Premalatha, who heads the party, is insisting on a double-digit number.

Another DMK leader said the party would offer 27 or 28 assembly seats and one Rajya Sabha berth to the Congress, which is planning to pitch for anywhere between 35 to 40 seats.

NUMBERS MATTER

- Bid to finish seat-sharing talks before the party's state-wide conference in Tiruchirapalli
- DMK will constitute a committee consisting of senior leaders to negotiate with alliance partners.
- The party plans to further strengthen the Secular Progressive Alliance by inducting new partners.

Maha: Sarpanch aspirant kills daughter for local body polls

HYDERABAD, PTI: A Maharashtra man, a father of three children, who aspired to contest local body elections in the state, allegedly killed his six-year-old daughter by throwing her into a canal in Telangana to be eligible to contest panchayat polls, police said on Monday.

Those having more than two children are ineligible to contest local polls in Maharashtra. The 28-year-old man, a resident of Kerur village in Mukhed taluka of Nanded district in Maharashtra, bordering Telangana, came towards Nizamabad district along with his daughter on a bike on January 29 and threw her in a canal. Local residents, who noticed the girl's body in the canal, informed the police.

Police registered a case and three teams were formed as part of the investigation, Nizamabad Police Commissioner P Sai Chaitanya said. Some residents from Mukhed identified the deceased girl after seeing her photo. Subsequently, the police team visited the village and confirmed that the deceased child belonged to Kerur village.

Police further found out that the deceased girl was among the three children of a man, who runs a salon in Mukhed.

RAGE OVER COMMENTS

Verbal abuse, vandalism mar Andhra politics

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

A day after senior YSRCP leader and former Andhra Pradesh minister Ambati Rambabu's house was vandalised and ransacked in Guntur, former minister Jogi Ramesh's residence in Vijayawada suffered a similar attack on Monday.

Rambabu's home was targeted by TDP cadres on Saturday and Sunday over his comments against Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, which they deemed objectionable and derogatory. Rambabu was later taken into custody over the comments.

Similarly, after Ramesh made seemingly objectionable remarks against IT Minister Nara Lokesh, a large mob descended on his Ibrahimpatnam house, destroyed household articles, and hurled petrol bombs.

The YSRCP has now demanded deployment of Central forces in Andhra Pradesh, citing "unabated politically driven arson and vindictive attacks" on Opposition leaders. Kurnool YSRCP president S V Mohan Reddy on Monday accused the coalition government of vindictiveness, claiming TDP "goons" were being allowed to take the law into their own hands.

YSRCP state coordinator Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy said on Monday that the incidents reflected a dangerous pattern of organised political violence carried out under police watch. He said the attack on Rambabu's house took place despite police presence, and that the entire state witnessed how an "organised TDP mob" operated freely in Guntur.

He claimed senior police officials were unreachable even during emergencies, and that when leaders — including a former home minister, that too a woman — tried to meet the superintendent of police, they were made to wait on the road.

Jogi Ramesh said his life and the safety of his family were under threat from Nara Lokesh.

Reacting to these incidents, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said the criminalisation of politics was the YSRCP's core culture.

TRADE TANGLE: Uncertainty remains over continuation of penal levy tied to Russia

India awaits clarity as Trump announces tariff cut

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with US President Donald Trump . PTI FILE

The United States' announcement to reduce the 'reciprocal tariff' on imports from India from 25% to 18% comes nearly a year after the unveiling of a trade deal.

The announcement of the Bilateral Trade Agreement was made on February 13 last year, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington.

Formal negotiations began in March 2025 with a target of concluding the first tranche of the deal by September-October. However, progress was hampered by the Trump administration's unilateral decision to impose high tariffs, which negatively impacted the talks.

With effect from August 27, 2025, the Trump administration imposed a steep 50% tariff on the import of most Indian goods. This comprised a 25% reciprocal tariff and an additional 25% penal tariff linked to India's economic engagement with Russia.

While Trump has spoken about lowering the reciprocal tariff from 25% to 18%, confusion remains over the continuation of the 25% penal tariff.

"Trump says US tariffs will fall from 25% to 18%. However, since the post also refers to India stopping Russian oil purchases — linked earlier to punitive tariffs — it is unclear whether the cut is actually from 50% to 18%, or whether Trump misstated the starting tariff level," said Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) founder Ajay Srivastava.

Despite the reduction, tariffs on Indian goods would remain among the highest in the American markets. The US administration has already entered into deals with several countries offering lower tariffs, like the UK (10%) and the EU (15%).

In the Truth Social post, the US president claimed that Modi committed to "buy American" at much higher levels, including purchases of more than $500 billion worth of US energy, technology, agricultural products, coal and other goods.

"At present, India's annual imports of goods and energy from the US are under $50 billion. Reaching $500 billion would likely require more than 20 years, suggesting the figure refers to a long-term aspiration rather than a near-term commitment," Srivastava said.

NILESH SHAH
MD, Kotak Mahindra AMC

"India US trade deal has gone through ups and downs like a roller coaster. While devil is in the details, it removes a hanging sword over rupee, equity and rates market. Let us hope that it is a win win deal for both the countries as they have lot to gain through cooperation.

VINAY KWATRA
Indian Ambassador to the US

"India's A big WIN for a consequential partnership under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi @narendramodi and President Donald Trump @POTUS. The deal will create "new opportunities for the two economies and the people of our two great nations. Today's announcements herald an exciting new phase in our partnership.

NITIN NABIN
BJP president

"The strengthening of relations between India and the US, two of the world's most powerful democracies, will have a very positive and far-reaching impact. This decision will provide new momentum to the progress of the Indian economy. It will also give new energy to the Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives.

Modi has capitulated finally: Cong

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Congress on Monday night targeted the union government over the Indo-US trade deal announcement by President Donald Trump, claiming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has "capitulated finally" and insisting this "cannot be the father of all deals".

Soon after Trump announced the trade deal, Congress General Secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh said the US President "clearly seems to have some leverage" over the Prime Minister.

Ramesh said Trump had announced the halt of Operation Sindoor from Washington DC, the updates on India's oil purchases from Russia and Venezuela from Washington. He has now announced an India-US Trade Deal from Washington, the full details of which are awaited, Ramesh said.

Ramesh alleged that Modi is "now mortified of even being seen with him, let alone engage in the usual bout of hugs".

"It appears Mr Modi has capitulated finally. Surely this cannot be the father of all deals. In Washington, clearly 'Mogambo Khush Hai'," he said recalling the iconic dialogue in Hindi movie 'Mr India' in which the villain says about himself 'Mogambo is happy'.

Earlier, Ramesh referred to US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor announcing that Trump spoke with Modi and one should "stay tuned" for updates and said it now seems to be a routine that India gets to know of its government's actions only from Trump or his appointees.

JAIRAM RAMESH
Congress general secretary

"President Trump clearly seems to have some leverage over Prime Minister Modi -- who is now mortified of even being seen with him, let alone engaging in the usual bout of hugs.

'Now it's routine'

"This information has been provided not by the Indian side but by the US Ambassador to India. "This now seems to be the routine -- India gets to know of its government's actions only from President Trump or his appointees," he said.

The telephonic conversation and the announcement came on a day External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar began his three-day visit to Washington.

Win-win for citizens, industry of both nations, says Vaishnaw

NEW DELHI, PTI: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Monday said the India-US trade agreement is a win-win deal which will benefit citizens and industries of both countries.

Vaishnaw's remarks came soon after US President Donald Trump spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and announced that India and the US have agreed on a trade deal.

Ashwini Vaishnaw

Under the agreed deal, Washington will bring down the reciprocal tariff on Indian goods to 18% from the current 25%. Trump said India will move forward to reduce "tariffs and non-tariff barriers" against the US to zero, adding New Delhi would buy American goods, including energy, worth more than $500 billion.

In a post on X, Vaishnaw, the Union minister for information and broadcasting, said, "Trade deal between the US and India will lead to a brighter future for both countries."

"India-US trade deal is a win-win deal. Citizens and industries of both countries will benefit greatly from this deal."

Terming the US and India as the world's largest democracies and natural allies, the minister said, "Together, India and the US have huge potential to work for peace and development . The US and India have complementary strengths. Both countries can co-create technologies and co-develop solutions that will benefit the world."

Animal fat in Tirumala laddu 'synthetic ghee': Pawan Kalyan

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan said nowhere did the CBI chargesheet claim an absence of animal-fat traces in the ghee used for Tirumala laddu prasadam. He demanded a special discussion on the issue in the state Assembly.

The actor-turned-politician mocked the YSRCP's defence on the subject, saying: "Creating ghee without cows, milk, or butter is impossible even for scientists —yet only the YSRCP pulled it off." He emphasised that the CBI report did not deny animal-fat origins, describing the adulterated product as a "chemical-laden liquid".

"The YSRCP opened the gates for this adulteration and pocketed Rs 233 crore," said Kalyan, urging party workers to counter the rival outfit's claim that the CBI had given it a clean chit.

"It is 100% true that adulteration tainted the preparation of Tirumala Sri Venkateswara Swamy prasadam laddus, which devotees receive with utmost purity. During the YSRCP government's tenure, every bit of the 60 lakh kg of cow ghee supplied to Tirumala was adulterated. They passed off a liquid created with chemicals as ghee — and used that liquid to make 20 crore laddus sold as prasadam," said the Jana Sena.

Tycoon's death sends ripples through Kerala politics

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

ROW AFTER SUICIDE

- Confident Group chairman's death turns political flashpoint
- Suicide during IT raid fuels charges of agency misuse
- CM Vijayan calls it a "blot on tax administration"
- CPM avoid probe merits, focus on BJP's alleged misuse of central agencies

The death of Malayali businessman CJ Roy in Bengaluru last week has sent ripples through poll-bound Kerala, fuelling multiple theories about the reasons behind the suicide of one of the state's richest real estate developers amid an ongoing Income Tax investigation.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan described the incident as "a blot on the tax administration of the country" that has caused "shock and sorrow" among the people, the business community and civil society in the state. In a letter to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Vijayan demanded a judicial investigation.

Roy, chairman of the Confident Group, shot himself during an Income Tax search operation at his Bengaluru residence on January 30.

The Opposition Congress has also accused the NDA government at the Centre of using central agencies to influence poll outcome in Kerala.

"It is quite surprising to see the Kerala chief minister urging the BJP government at the Centre to order a judicial probe into Roy's death, which occurred in Congress-ruled Karnataka, even as the BJP itself is accused of misusing central agencies," said political commentator Joseph Mathew, who earlier served as an advisor to former Kerala CM Achuthanandan.

CJ Roy

Interestingly, both the CPM and the Congress have avoided commenting on the merits of the investigations against Roy and his businesses. Instead, they have focused their criticism on the BJP, accusing it of misusing central agencies for political purposes.

The controversy surrounding Roy's death has acquired another political dimension.

Christians constitute about 20% of Kerala's electorate, concentrated largely in the central region. Several powerful business families from the community have traditionally aligned with the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF).

In recent years, however, both the BJP and the Left have sought to make inroads into this constituency.

On Monday, Congress MP Hibi Eden submitted a notice for an adjournment motion on the issue, which was rejected by the Speaker.

Speaking to *DH*, Eden cited a case from Kerala where "the MD of Kitex Garments and President of the Ernakulam-based Twenty20 party announced joining the NDA, reportedly to evade Enforcement Directorate scrutiny".

Political analyst CA Josukutty said while the Christian community in Kerala has traditionally been considered pro-Congress, business groups have often extended support across party lines. "The Congress and CPM may be using the incident to reinforce their charge that the BJP is misusing central agencies," he said.

BJP Kerala president Rajeev Chandrasekhar — also an industrialist from Bengaluru — expressed grief over Roy's death while noting that Income Tax raids are common in the real estate sector.

(With *DH* inputs from Delhi)

Next PSLV launch may happen by June

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's workhorse polar satellite launch vehicle (PSLV) may be ready for its next flight by June after multiple analyses of faults that resulted in back-to-back failures of a homegrown rocket, said Union Science Minister Jitendra Singh on Monday, adding that it otherwise had an excellent safety record.

"What happened this time (January 2026) is different from what happened the last time (May 2025). We are carrying out an appraisal, including a third-party review. The next possible launch date may be in June," he said.

Last month, the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro)'s PSLV-C62 rocket — carrying 16 satellites, including a foreign Earth-observation satellite — failed because of an anomaly in the third stage.

Jitendra Singh

In May 2025, the PSLV-C61, carrying the RISAT-1B satellite, also didn't succeed because of an "observation in the third stage", said Isro.

The failure analysis committee has submitted its report to the Prime Minister's Office, but the report has not been made public.

Singh said the two failures' causes were different, but none of the future launches has been cancelled, suggesting the customers' trust in Isro.

He gave the analogy of a room turning dark because of a power failure: "The last time, a bulb fused. This time, there was a tripping outside."

Despite the two failures within eight months, PSLV enjoys an excellent safety record of over 90% success, he noted.

18 launches

"We have 18 launches scheduled this year, of which six are private. No one has withdrawn the request to launch. Next year, there will be three major launches of foreign satellites from Japan, France, and the US," the minister said.

Asked about the possibility of sabotage being behind the two failures, Singh said, "As of now, we have not come across any such report."

The minister said that separate internal and external failure assessment committees had been set up to analyse what went wrong in each mission.

Anti-conversion laws: SC notice to Centre, 12 states

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to the Centre and 12 states, including Rajasthan and Arunachal Pradesh, on a fresh PIL filed by the National Council of Churches in India challenging the validity of their anti-conversion laws.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi tagged the plea with the pending ones while clarifying that a three-judge bench would hear the matter. After hearing arguments by advocate Meenakshi Arora, who also sought a stay on the operation of the state laws, the court sought responses from the Centre and 12 state governments in four weeks.

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division, BNCC, Zone-2, 2nd Floor BNCC (Old BBMP) Bulding, Opp to Indira Canteen, JC Nagar Main Road, Munireddy Palya, Bengaluru-560006

No:BNCC-Z2/EE/HBL/PR/07/2025-26 **Date: 02-02-2026**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

Tenders on Item Rate basis are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Chief Commissioner BNCC for the works mentioned below from the registered contractors of GBA-Bengaluru North City Corporation or Equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl No.	Name of the works / Category
1.	Annual maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains in Ward No-61-Radhakrishna Temple for the year 2025-26. **Est. Cost: ₹.30.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.60,000/- (Other)**
2.	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains in Ward No- 62-Sanjayanagara for the year 2025-26. **Est. Cost: ₹.30.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.30,000/- (CAT-II(A))**
3.	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains in Ward No- 63-Hebbal for the year 2025-26. **Est. Cost: ₹.30.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.60,000/- (Other)**
4.	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains in Ward No-64-Vishwanatha Nagenahalli. **Est. Cost: ₹.30.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.60,000/- (Other)**
5.	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains in Ward No-65-Manorayanapalya for the year 2025-26. **Est. Cost: ₹.30.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.60,000/- (Other)**
6.	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains in Ward No-66-Chamundinagara for the year 2025-26. **Est. Cost: ₹.30.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.30,000/- (SC)**
7.	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains in Ward No-67-Ganganagara for the year 2025-26. **Est. Cost: ₹.30.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.60,000/- (Other)**
8.	Annual Maintainance of Ward and Desilting of Drains in Ward No-68-J C Nagara for the year 2025-26. **Est. Cost: ₹.30.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.30,000/- (SC)**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP portal GOK from **05-02-2026**. (2) Last Date for uploading the filled proposals is **21-02-2026** upto **4:00** pm (3) Date of opening of Tender is **23-02-2026** after **4:30** pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Hebbal Division, Zone-2

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KPTCL invites Bids on electronic mode for the following works in a **Combined Package** against following Enquiry Numbers:

No. CGM(Tech)/DGM(PROC&APCC)/EE(Proc-2)/AEE-3/2025-26/5733-750 Date: 02.02.2026

Enquiry number/ Name of the Work

1) KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT3252

Work-A: Replacement of **2X8MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer by 2X20 MVA, 66/11kV** Power Transformer at **66kV Hagare sub-station** in **Belur Taluk, Hassan District.**

Work-B: Replacement of **2X8MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer by 2X20 MVA 66/11kV** Power Transformer at **66kV Duglapura sub-station** in **Tarikere Taluk, Chikkamagaluru District.**

Work-C: Providing **additional 1X20MVA,** 66/11kV Power Transformer at **66/11kV Kalasapura sub-station** in **Chikkamagaluru Taluk and District**.

on Partial Turnkey Basis, including Supply of all Materials/ Equipments (Excluding supply of 11kV Switchgear) and Erection (including dismantling & Civil Works) of all Materials/ Equipments, Testing and Commissioning.

No. CGM(Tech)/DGM(PROC &APCC)/EE(PROC) 2/AEE6/2025-26/5752-765 Date: 02.02.2026

2) KPTCL/2025-26/TL/WORK_INDENT3255

Work A: Replacement of existing 220kV Bidnal-Harti-Gadag DC line of Drake conductor by HPC along with Modifications/ Decommissioning in associated Terminal Bays of Bidnal sub-station, Harti sub-station, Gadag sub-station.

Work B: Conversion of 220kV AAAC Moose conductor to HPC from 400/220kV Devanahalli KIADB Hardware Park sub-station to 220/66kV Devanahalli KIADB Hardware Park sub-station, BIAL (Begur) sub-station and KIADB Aerospace Park sub-station along with associated sub-station Terminal Bays modifications/ Decommissioning works.

on **Total Turnkey Basis** including Supply of all Materials/ equipments, Erection (Including Civil and dismantling Works) of all materials/ equipments, Testing and Commissioning.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **04.02.2026 at 15:30hrs**. Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours. All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- **Chief General Manager(Tech)., KPTCL, Corporate Office, Indhana Bhavana, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru - 560 009.**

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
IT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Deputy Chief Information Officer - IT,
2nd Floor, Annex Building-2, N.R. Square, GBA, Bengaluru-560002.
Ph: 9480688000, Email: dcio-it@bbmp.gov.in

No. GBA/2025-26/IND0004 Date: 02-02-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Deputy Chief Information Officer - IT, GBA Department on behalf of Chief Commissioner, GBA invites Proposals through KPP Portal from eligible companies for **Next-Generation Firewalls and Switch for IT Department, GBA**. EMD Amount: **Rs. 1,50,000/-.**

Calendar of Events: **(1)** Bid documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 02.02.2026 upto 3.00 pm. (2)** Date of Pre-bid meeting : **09.02.2026 at 3.00 pm in the Office of the Special Commissioner (Revenue and IT), GBA Head Office premises, 1st Floor, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002. (3)** Last date for seeking clarification if any : **09.02.2026 at 3.00 pm. (4)** Last date for uploading of tender : **18.02.2026 upto 5.00 pm. (5)** Date and time of opening of tenders (Technical Bid & Technical evaluation): **19.02.2026 at 5.10 pm. (6)** Date and time of opening of tenders (Commercial bid) if possible : **21.02.2026 at 11.00 am. (7)** Contact person for queries & Place of opening of Tenders: **At the above mentioned office.**

Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Deputy Chief Information Officer - IT
GBA, Bengaluru

SRI JAYADEVA INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES & RESEARCH
(Govt. of Karnataka - Reg. Autonomous Institute)
Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560 069.
Ph.: +91-80-22977666/276/433/216/217
Tele Fax:080-26534625/477 | e-mail: director.sjicr@gmail.com

Ref.:SJICR/TS/47/2025-26 **Date: 02-02-2026**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Research, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru invites tender for the following items in two bid system from eligible tenderers through KPP portal of Government of Karnataka:

Sl. No.	Tender Notification No./ Indent No.	Particulars
1.	SJICR/2025-26/ IND0054 Dt. 02.02.2026	Supply of Narcotics Drugs.
2.	SJICR/2025-26/ IND0056 Dt. 02.02.2026	Supply of Generators & Isotopes for the Department of Nuclear Caridiology.

1. The tenderers can download the documents from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **03-02-2025** and the last date for submission of completed tenders through e-portal is **17-02-2026 up to 4-00 PM.**
2. Date of Pre-bid meeting: **10-02-2026 at 11-30 AM.**
3. Date of Technical Bid opening: **18-02-2026 at 4-00 PM.**
4. **EMD:** as mentioned in the tender document
5. The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the tender partially or fully without assigning any reason at any stage of processing.

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/JA/5363/2025-26 **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Sandal City: P.B. No. 5531, Bengaluru-Pune Highway, Bengaluru - 560 055.
Ph: 080-22164879, 22164886, Website: www.mysoresandal.org e-mail: **ksdl.dgmmtls@gmail.com**

An ISO-9001:2015 & 14001:2015 Company

Date: 02.02.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tenders are invited by **KS&DL** in two cover system through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**) with respect to following Goods/Services/Works.

Sl. No.	Tender Number	Tender Name	Tender Quantity	Published date	Last Date of Submission
1	KSDL/2025-26/SE0205	Disposal of 200 Ltrs Blue Plastic Drums at KSDL, Bengaluru Complex on AS IS WHERE IS BASIS	Services	31-01-2026	16-02-2026
2	KSDL/2025-26/SE0206	Disposal of Waste & Obsolete corrugated boxes at Sandalwood oil division, Mysuru on AS IS WHERE IS BASIS	Services	31-01-2026	16-02-2026
3	KSDL/2025-26/SE0207	Disposal of 200 Ltrs GI drums at Sandalwood oil division, Mysuru on AS IS WHERE IS BASIS	Services	31-01-2026	16-02-2026
4	KSDL/2025-26/SE0208	Disposal of 200 Ltrs MS drums at Sandalwood oil division, Mysuru on AS IS WHERE IS BASIS	Services	31-01-2026	16-02-2026
5	KSDL/2025-26/SE0209	Disposal of 200 Ltrs HMHDPE Blue Drums at Sandalwood oil division, Mysuru on AS IS WHERE IS BASIS	Services	31-01-2026	16-02-2026

For any further queries/clarifications please contact the undersigned.

Sd/- Asst. General Manager (Materials)

T'gana to set up dedicated SLBC division after tunnel collapse

HYDERABAD, DHNS: The Telangana government has decided to establish a dedicated SLBC Division, appointing a Chief Engineer (SLBC) to lead operations.

Specialised geotechnical and geological teams will carry out daily assessments of ground behaviour and tunnel stability, enabling real-time decision-making and risk mitigation.

The move follows the tragic partial roof collapse at the SLBC tunnel in Nagarkurnool district in February last year, which trapped eight workers, most of them from other states. An 11-member multidisciplinary technical committee oversaw rescue operations, with two bodies recovered so far.

At a recent review meeting, Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy emphasised round-the-clock operations, with a focus on strict safety protocols, and zero tolerance for negligence. He directed that remaining tunnelling work be executed using scientific methodologies and advanced tunnelling techniques.

AI grounds Dreamliner after pilot flags fuel switch issue

Defect reported on Boeing 787-8 amid 2025 Ahmedabad crash investigation

MALFUNCTION

- The pilot of the Bengaluru-bound flight flags a possible defect with its fuel control switch
- The airline grounds the aircraft and involves Boeing to check the pilot's concern
- The same malfunction was at the heart of the AI 171 crash in Ahmedabad on June 12, 2025

NEW DELHI, PTI

An Air India pilot on Monday reported a possible defect with the fuel control switch of a Boeing 787-8 plane, which has now been grounded for checks, and the incident comes amid the ongoing probe into the airline's Dreamliner crash last June.

The aircraft operated the flight AI132 from London to Bengaluru, and it landed at Bengaluru on Monday morning. There were more than 200 people on board, according to sources.

Another source aware of the incident said the fuel control switch failed to be in the 'RUN' position and moved towards the 'CUT OFF' position.

'RUN' and 'CUT OFF' are used to start or shut down engines, respectively.

It could not be immediately ascertained at what stage of the flight the Air India pilot noticed the possible malfunctioning of the fuel control switch.

The functioning of the fuel control switch is in focus following the crash of Air India's Boeing 787-8 aircraft, or Dreamliner, that killed 260 people last June, as the preliminary probe report mentioned fuel supply being cut off soon after takeoff.

Air India on Monday said it was aware that one of its pilots had reported a possible defect on the fuel control switch of a Boeing 787-8 aircraft.

DGCA informed

"After receiving this initial information, we have grounded the said aircraft and are involving the OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) to get the pilot's concerns checked on a priority basis. The matter has been communicated to the aviation regulator, DGCA. Air India had checked the fuel control switches on all Boeing 787 aircraft in its fleet after a directive from the DGCA and had found no issues," the airline said in a statement.

Air India's Boeing 787-8 has 256 seats.

In a statement, Boeing said it was in contact with Air India and was supporting their review of this matter.

There was no immediate comment from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Not-for-profit group Safety Matters Foundation on Monday said that during the operation of the flight, the crew reported abnormal behaviour of the left engine fuel control switch of the aircraft.

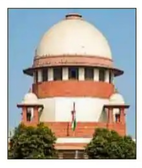
"During engine start, the switch failed to remain locked in the RUN position on two attempts, moving towards CUTOFF—a malfunction that could, under specific conditions, lead to an inadvertent engine shutdown in flight," it claimed in a statement.

In one of the worst aircraft accidents in India, a total of 260 people, including 241 passengers, died after Air India's Boeing 787-8 aircraft operating flight AI171 to London Gatwick crashed soon after takeoff from Ahmedabad on June 12, 2025.

In its preliminary report on the crash that was released on July 12 last year, AAIB said the fuel supply to both engines of the plane was cut off within a gap of one second, causing confusion in the cockpit soon after takeoff.

"In the cockpit voice recording, one of the pilots is heard asking the other why he cut off. The other pilot responded that he did not do so," it had said.

Pune Porsche crash: SC pulls up parents; grants bail to 3 accused



NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday granted bail to three accused in the May 2024 Pune Porsche hit-and-run car accident case, where two people were allegedly died due to rash and negligent driving by a juvenile.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan, however, expressed concern, saying it was saddening how irresponsible such parents were who provided their juvenile children with high-speed cars and let them indulge in celebrating with substances such as alcohol and drugs.

"Celebration is not based on substance (abuse) and driving in speed. Two innocent people are killed... This is not the first time this has happened. The main ones responsible are the parents who are giving them sufficient funds for a gala time," said the bench.

The court also criticised the parents for not having time to spend with their children. "The law has to catch up," said Justice Nagarathna.

Meanwhile, the court ordered the release of three people — Aditya Sood, Ashish Mittal, and Santosh Gaikwad — who were accused of helping the juvenile's family tamper with the evidence of the crash by swapping blood samples.

The court clarified that they should not misuse their liberty. "Any violation of condition would result in cancellation of bail," said the court.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for the father of one of the victims, opposed their bail pleas.

One of the accused granted bail is the father of a juvenile passenger who was seated in the back of the Porsche. The second accused is a friend of the father of the other back-seat passenger.

The third accused is an assistant of the doctor who examined the medical evidence and allegedly accepted Rs 3 lakh from the parents to swap the blood samples in order to shield the juvenile driver from prosecution.

They were arrested under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act for forgery, evidence-tampering, and bribery.

The Maharashtra HC had earlier said granting bail to financially well-placed accused in the case could lead to witness tampering and obstruct justice.

14 Jharkhand workers stranded in Dubai seek govt help

RANCHI, PTI: Nearly 14 migrant workers from different districts of Jharkhand facing difficulties allegedly due to unpaid wages in Dubai have appealed to the state government for facilitating their safe return, an official said on Monday.

Team leader of the state migrant control cell, Shikha Lakra said they have been informed about 14 migrant workers from Giridih, Hazaribag and Bokaro districts who have sent a video alleging that the private company has not paid wages and they are being forced to work.

"This is causing them difficulties in terms of accommodation and food. The stranded labourers have sent a video sharing their plight and appealing to the government for help. They sent the video to Sikandar Ali, who works for the welfare of migrant workers," said Lakra.

"We are trying to speak to the migrant workers and verify their documents to begin the process of talking with the Indian Embassy and UAE government for safe repatriation," the official said.

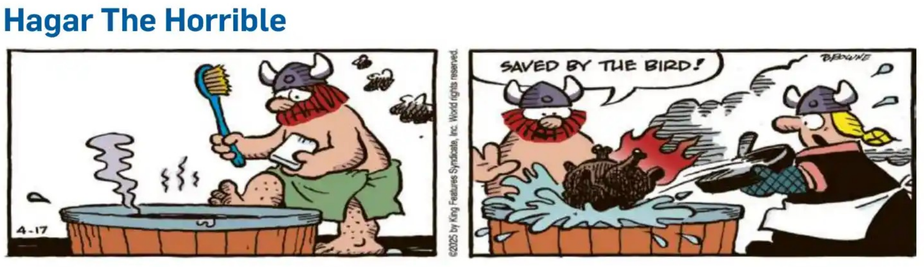
MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

THE HARDEST PART OF OUR DATES IS SAYING GOODBYE
AWW...
PARTING IS SUCH SWEET SORROW, SO UNTIL THE MORROW, MY SWEET...
YOU KNOW, YOU'VE GOT A REAL FUTURE IN GREETING CARDS

Hagar The Horrible



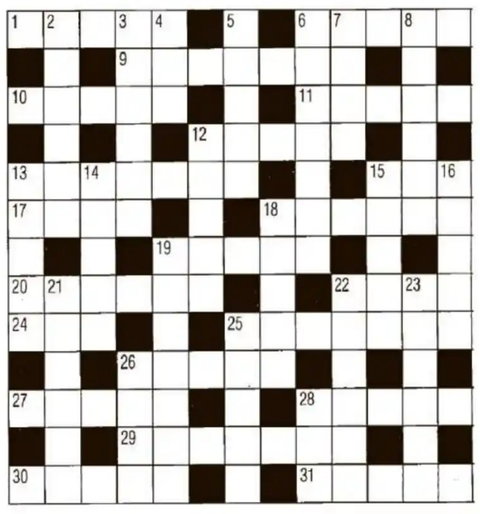
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

KING TIGLATH-PILESER OF ASSYRIA CONQUERED MANY NATIONS AND CARRIED OFF THEIR BOOTY
THIS MEANT THAT NONE OF THE LITTLE BABIES HAD ANY BOOTIES
HA HA HA HA HA
IF IT HAD HAPPENED TO YOU, MAYBE YOU WOULDN'T BE LAUGHING!

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12345



CRYPTIC

ACROSS

1 Accept no authority from a fatheaded oaf (5)
6 A slim assortment of postal packages (5)
9 In the wild, they don't contrive to save gas (7)
10 Gigantic source of taint (5)
11 The ones belonging to Thomas East (5)
12 Short and interesting, at heart (5)
13 Given something to burn (7)
15 This is breathlessly assertive! (3)
17 Part of a church in a state of collapse (4)
18 There's a national one for these people (6)
19 Communicate by taxi with the French (5)
20 As emperor, he had his own column (6)
22 Price of sheet music, ostensibly (4)
24 Perhaps a lofty Haydn piece? (3)
25 Famously lacking ability? (7)
26 Strong drink (5)
27 We go in to the left (by rail, maybe?) (5)
28 Occasions of upsetting '16 Down' (5)
29 Where, afresh, one went off to be a proprietor (3,4)
30 Females dim as can be? (5)
31 Looked to perambulate the dog about half a mile? (5)

DOWN

2 Sick of being kept in reserve? (4,2)
3 Valid way for us to get fit (6)
4 Instant healthy-looking colour? (3)
5 Singular thing to shoot on the river! (5)
6 Somehow name the gas (7)
7 Like a backward, pale appearance? (4)
8 Would she fib about a fathead? (6)
12 Growing need to change pace at one point (5)
13 A woman with both hope and charity? (5)
14 Piece of writing for the Standard, say? (5)
15 Beat both possibly outright (5)
16 Strike as being old-fashioned? (5)
18 Give everything not to be decapitated! (5)
19 Strong places to chuck a chap into (7)
21 She's Spanish, but there's a Roman version (6)
22 Preparing to rob of cover? (6)
23 You may well have a hand in it, albeit briefly (6)
25 Not so much heady as potty! (5)
26 Post a letter to finish with (4)
28 Figure of a magnificent woman (3)

ACROSS

1 Faith (5)
6 Prickly plants (5)
9 Inclined to cry (7)
10 Decorate (5)
11 Pub game (5)
12 Dispatches (5)
13 Crocus (7)
15 Opposite of wet (3)
17 Fever (4)
18 Confuse (6)
19 Assistants (5)
20 Ludicrous (6)
22 Celebrity (4)
24 24 hours (3)
25 Part of speech (7)
26 Lukewarm (5)
27 Once more (5)
28 Nozzle (5)
29 Afternoon show (7)
30 Cant (5)
31 Banal (5)

DOWN

2 A provocation (3,3)
3 Conflict (6)
4 Number (3)
5 Verdant (5)
6 Hugs (7)
7 Unfortunately (4)
8 Teachers (6)
12 Compact, firm (5)
13 Cold meal (5)
14 Pernickety (5)
15 Caused by (3,2)
16 To pine (5)
18 Facial hair (5)
19 Arms depot (7)
21 Bracelet type (6)
22 Hidden gunman (6)
23 Summer month (6)
25 Fairy type (5)
26 Prison sentence (4)
28 Suite (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12344

CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 3, Fa-U-st 8, Basil 10, Tax-is 11, Din 12, Cedar 13, Maximum 15, T-O-sca 18, Car(ted) 19, Cut-i.e.-s 21, Ea.-table 22, Ro-LL 23, Shoo 24, So-licit 26, Chaser 29, Mug 31, Taste 32, Per-h-aps 34, Armed 35, Tie 36, Piste 37, Terns 38, Edges.
DOWN: 1, Radar (rev.) 2, Fin-ic-al 4, A-hem 5, Stat-u-e 6, Tarot 7, Mince 9, Si-X 12, Curator 14, Mat 16, Si-G-ht 17, Ascot (Tosca) 19, CL-aimed 20, Tract 21, Elias 23, Sighted 24, See red 25, Cur 27, Had it 28, State 30, Spent 32, Peke 33, Air.

EASY

ACROSS: 3, Chars 8, Salon 10, Ultra 11, Gas 12, Blase 13, Revenue 15, Seems 18, Gag 19, Repeal 21, Cabaret 22, Wary 23, Site 24, Rosette 26, Tattoo 29, Roe 31, Sweat 32, Dentist 34, Canoe 35, Sat 36, Trait 37, Tonic 38, Tease.
DOWN: 1, Wages 2, Nosegay 4, Hole 5, Russet 6, Sleep 7, Drama 9, Lav 12, Bugaboo 14, Nab 16, Eerie 17, Sleek 19, Referee 20, Swats 21, Crate 23, Stetson 24, Rotate 25, Ton 27, Award 28, Tacit 30, Astir 32, Dons 33, Ian.

◆SU-DO-KU-6820◆

	8	5				1	2	3
7	9				1			
		2			8		7	6
				1	2		9	
	4		9		5		3	
	2		8	7				
9	5		1			2		
			7				1	8
3	1	7				4	5	

easy

2	9	6	3	5	1	7	4	8
7	5	1	2	8	4	3	6	9
3	8	4	6	9	7	5	1	2
5	1	2	9	6	3	8	7	4
6	3	8	7	4	5	2	9	1
9	4	7	1	2	8	6	5	3
4	7	5	8	3	9	1	2	6
8	2	9	5	1	6	4	3	7
1	6	3	4	7	2	9	8	5

SOLUTION TO 6819

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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							Triple Word Score	RACK 1
C3	S1	C3	O1	U1	U1	T1		
							4th Letter Double	RACK 2
U1	V4	S1	R1	N1	O1	E1		
								RACK 3
U1	T1	C3	S1	T1	D2	E1		
							Double Word Score	RACK 4
S1	O1	O1	L1	R1	D2	A1		
								RACK 5
I1	I1	N1	P3	T1	S1	A1		

PAR SCORE 115-125
by JUDD

FIVE RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

D2	R1	I1	F4	T1	E1	D2	RACK 1 =	70
B3	R1	O1	A1	D2	L1	Y4	RACK 2 =	63
C3	R1	A1	G2	G2	Y4		RACK 3 =	13
E1	R1	A1	S1	U1	R1	E1	RACK 4 =	71
							JUDD'S TOTAL	217

PAR SCORE 140-150

HITORI-3274

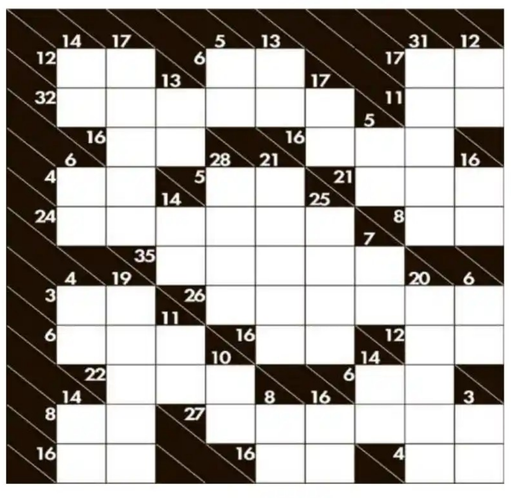
1	1	3	4	2	2	8	7
1	3	1	5	7	1	6	1
8	8	6	7	4	3	1	5
3	7	4	2	1	6	1	8
1	5	6	7	3	8	2	6
6	4	8	3	1	4	5	8
1	8	5	8	6	4	3	2
5	2	2	6	8	1	1	3

SOLUTION TO 3273

■	6	8	3	■	5	1	■
6	■	5	1	7	■	8	3
1	4	7	■	8	3	5	2
5	■	4	2	■	1	■	7
■	2	1	4	6	8	3	■
3	5	2	■	4	■	6	1
7	3	■	5	2	4	■	6
8	■	3	7	1	■	2	5

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

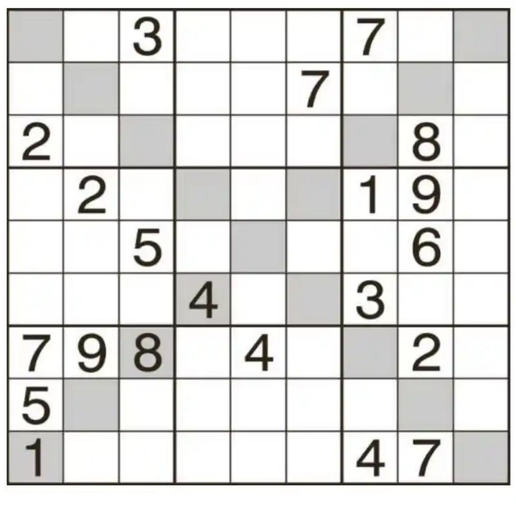
KAKURO- 3274



SOLUTION TO 3273

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3816



SOLUTION TO 3815

5	4	1	6	9	7	8	2	3
7	3	9	2	5	8	6	4	1
6	2	8	3	4	1	9	7	5
3	9	6	4	8	5	7	1	2
2	7	4	1	6	9	3	5	8
8	1	5	7	3	2	4	6	9
9	5	2	8	7	6	1	3	4
4	8	7	5	1	3	2	9	6
1	6	3	9	2	4	5	8	7

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

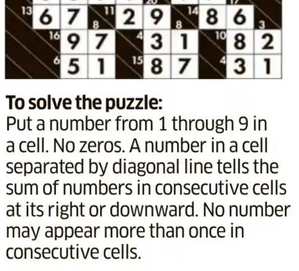
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SIOTH

OHTPO

NRDGUO

FBTEUF



WHEN THE CHEF DREAMED UP NEW RECIPES, IT WAS ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SPURN OFTEN HAMMER ENTICE
Answer: Spotting the king and queen of the school dance was easy because they were — PROMINENT

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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US to launch $12-bn rare minerals stockpile

Project aims to reduce reliance on China

WASHINGTON, AFP

The United States is expected to launch a critical minerals stockpile with $12 billion in initial funding, a White House official confirmed on Monday, as Washington seeks to reduce reliance on China for rare earths and other resources.

The project is anticipated to combine approximately $1.7 billion in private capital with a $10 billion loan from the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM). This funding will be used to secure and store key minerals for businesses such as automakers and technology companies, forming a stockpile for the US private sector, the official said on condition of anonymity.

Rare-earth metals, essential in the production of smartphones, fighter jets, and electric cars, have become a strategic bargaining tool since China introduced export restrictions last year. China's dominance in the industry—from natural reserves and mining through processing and innovation—provides Beijing with significant leverage in trade talks with President Donald Trump's administration.

The stockpile that Trump is set to announce is designed to reduce this dependence over time. It is expected to cover both rare earths and other critical minerals prone to price volatility.

More than a dozen companies, including automakers General Motors and Stellantis, aviation giant Boeing, and tech firm Alphabet's Google, are participating in the initiative, dubbed "Project Vault."

China's export restrictions have raised concerns in the US as the world's two largest economies continue to clash over trade, following the return of Trump to the presidency last year. Washington and its allies are racing to develop alternative mining and processing supply chains, though experts warn that establishing these will likely take several years.

The EXIM Bank is expected to vote on Monday to authorise the 15-year loan, which would set a record for the institution.

Japan makes 'world's first' rare earth recovery from sea

Japan said on Monday it has successfully drilled and retrieved deep-sea sediment containing rare earth minerals from the seabed, as the country seeks to reduce its reliance on China, AP/PTI reports from Tokyo.

The deep-sea drilling vessel Chikyu's successful gathered the sediment at a depth of nearly 6,000 km near the island of Minamitorishima, Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said on X. The test retrieval of the rare earths from that depth is a world first, she added. "It is a first step toward industrialisation of domestically produced rare earth in Japan," Takaichi said. "We will make effort toward achieving resilient supply chains for rare earths and other critical minerals to avoid overdependence on a particular country." Japan has been working on research, development and feasibility studies of rare earths deposits around the island.

68TH GRAMMY AWARDS
Music Blends Controversy

Music, politics and history converged at the 2026 Grammys in Los Angeles on February 1 as **Bad Bunny** made a landmark Spanish-language win, global stars dominated the night, and controversy followed the ceremony.

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

- **Debi Tirar Mas Fotos** (First Spanish-language album to win the Grammys' top honour)
- **Other wins**: Best Música Urbana Album and Best Global Music Performance
- Used his speeches to criticise US immigration raids • Dedicated his awards to Puerto Ricans and migrants

Biggest Winner: BAD BUNNY

OTHER NOTABLE WINS

Golden (KPop Demon Hunters) – First Grammy for K-pop

DALAI LAMA

- Best Spoken Word Album
- Recognised for promoting peace, compassion, environmental care and human unity

CHINA FUMES

He is a political exile committed to anti-China separatist activities under the disguise of religion. We firmly oppose relevant sides to use the award as a tool for anti-China political maneuvering.

- Lin Jian, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman

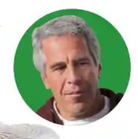
"I don't see it as something personal, but as a recognition of our shared universal responsibility."

MAJOR AWARD WINNERS

- **Record of the Year:** Kendrick Lamar – Luther (feat. SZA)
- **Song of the Year:** Billie Eilish & Finneas
- **Best New Artist:** Olivia Dean (UK)
- **Best Pop Vocal Album:** Lady Gaga

CONTROVERSY

- US President **Donald Trump** threatened legal action against Grammys host **Trevor Noah**
- Threat followed jokes referencing convicted sex offender **Jeffrey Epstein**



Gaza truce enters new phase with Rafah crossing reopening

Only 50 people would be allowed to cross in each direction in the early days

CAIRO, AP/PTI

Ambulances wait in line at the Egyptian side of the Rafah crossing with the Palestinian Gaza Strip on Monday. AFP

Gaza's Rafah border crossing with Egypt reopened on Monday for limited traffic, a key step in the Israeli-Hamas ceasefire, but largely symbolic as few people are allowed to travel in either direction and no goods are entering the war-torn territory.

Within the first hour, no one was seen crossing into or out of Gaza. An Egyptian official said 50 Palestinians would cross in each direction on the first day.

About 20,000 Palestinian children and adults needing medical care hope to leave Gaza via the crossing, according to Gaza health officials, while thousands outside the territory hope to return home.

State-run Egyptian media and an Israeli security official confirmed the reopening. Officials spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. Before the war, Rafah was the main crossing for people moving in and out of Gaza. The territory's other crossings are shared with Israel.

Under the ceasefire, which went into effect on October 10, Israel controls the area between the Rafah crossing and the main population zones.

About 150 hospitals across Egypt are ready to receive Palestinian patients evacuated through Rafah, authorities said.

The Egyptian Red Crescent has also prepared "safe spaces" at the border. Israel has banned sending patients to hospitals in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and east Jerusalem, cutting off a previously main outlet for medical treatment unavailable in Gaza.

Israel and Egypt will vet people for exit and entry through Rafah, supervised by European Union border patrol agents.

The numbers are expected to increase if the system works. Egypt has stated that the crossing must remain open to allow Palestinians to enter and exit Gaza.

Meanwhile, a three-year-old Palestinian was killed on Monday when Israeli navy fire hit tents sheltering displaced people in Khan Younis, Gaza, Palestinian hospital authorities said.

Hasina, relatives sentenced to 10 years in prison in absentia

DHAKA, PTI: A Bangladesh court on Monday sentenced deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to 10 years in jail in two separate corruption cases related to alleged irregularities in allocations of land in a government housing project.

Dhaka's Special Judge's Court handed 79-year-old former PM 10 years of rigorous imprisonment for using her influence in allocating residential plots to others, including her niece, UK Labour MP and former British minister Tulip Siddiq, under the Rajuk New Town Project in Purbachol on the outskirts of the capital. Judge Robiul Alam handed down Hasina's two nieces and a nephew, to different prison terms.

Siddiq's younger sister, Azaman Siddiq and brother Radwan Mujib Siddiq Bobby were sentenced to seven years imprisonment, while the deposed premier and her relatives were handed down the prison terms after trial in absentia. Only one of the 16 accused, a senior official of Rajuk, which allocates the plots, Khurshid Alam, was tried in person and was present at the court as the verdict was delivered.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Son of Norway's Crown Princess arrested before rape trial

▸ The eldest son of Norway's crown princess has been arrested, just before his trial opens on charges including rape in a case that has been an embarrassment to the royal family, AP/PTI reports from Oslo.

Marius Borg Høiby was arrested on Sunday evening and is accused of assault, threats with a knife and violation of a restraining order, police said in a statement. They requested four week's detention on grounds of risk of reoffending. His lawyers couldn't immediately be reached for comment. On Tuesday, he's due to go on trial at the Oslo district court. The indictment includes 38 counts, including rape, abuse in a close relationship against one former partner, acts of violence against another and transporting 3.5 kilograms of marijuana. Other charges include making death threats and traffic violations. Høiby has been under scrutiny since he was repeatedly arrested in 2024 on various allegations of wrongdoing. He was indicted in August, but had been free pending trial until Sunday.

Honour for Indian-origin scientist

▸ Indian-origin climate scientist Veerabhadran Ramanathan has been awarded the 2026 Crafoord Prize in Geosciences by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, PTI reports from Houston.

Often described as the "Nobel of Geosciences," the prize recognises Ramanathan's decades of research on super-pollutants and atmospheric brown clouds, which have reshaped understanding of global warming. Ramanathan, 82, made a landmark discovery in 1975 while working at NASA: chlorofluorocarbons, widely used in aerosols and refrigeration, trap heat in the atmosphere up to 10,000 times more effectively than carbon dioxide. "Until 1975, we thought global warming was mainly from CO . I was shocked at the capacity of technology and human beings to change the environment," Ramanathan told the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

A full moon rises near the Space Launch System and the Orion crew capsule at Launch Complex 39B, as preparations continue for the Artemis II moon mission in Cape Canaveral, Florida, on Sunday. REUTERS

China executes 4 scam operators

▸ China executed four people found guilty of causing the deaths of six Chinese citizens and running scam and gambling operations out of Myanmar worth more than USD 4 billion, authorities said on Monday, AP/PTI reports from Taipei (Taiwan).

The Shenzhen Intermediate People's Court in south China announced the executions in a statement Monday morning, though it was not clear when they had been carried out. The executions of 11 other people accused of running scam centres in Myanmar were announced last week.

Trump praises 'India's beautiful Triumphal Arch' on social media

NEW YORK, PTI: Describing the India Gate in New Delhi as "India's beautiful Triumphal Arch", US President Donald Trump said a similar monument in America will be "the greatest of them all."

The 42 metre high India Gate, an "Arc-de-Triomphe", honours the memory of the 70,000 Indian soldiers who were killed fighting for the British Army during World War I and the Third Anglo-Afghan War.

"India's beautiful Triumphal Arch. Ours will be the greatest of them all!" Trump said in a post on Truth Social, posting a photograph of the iconic Indian monument. While talking to reporters onboard Air Force One over the weekend, Trump had said that his administration is considering building an arc, similar to the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.

"For 200 years, they wanted to build an arc. They have 57 cities throughout the world that have them. We're the only major city, Washington, DC, that doesn't," he said, adding that the arc that will be built in Washington "will be the most beautiful in the world." Trump said he is setting up a committee for the construction of the arc.

"I'd like it to be the biggest one of all. We're the biggest, most powerful nation. I'd like it to be the biggest one.... the arc, I think it's going to be great. We're just setting up a committee now," he said.

Iran, US officials set to hold nuclear talks this week

PARIS, AFP

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has ordered the start of nuclear talks with the United States, local media said on Monday, after US leader Donald Trump said he was hopeful of a deal to avert military action against the Islamic republic.

Following the Iranian authorities' deadly response to anti-government protests that peaked last month, Trump has threatened military action and ordered the dispatch of an aircraft carrier group to the Middle East.

Trump has maintained he is hopeful of making a deal and Tehran has also insisted it wants diplomacy, while vowing an unbridled response to any aggression. "President Pezeshkian has ordered the opening of talks with the United States" on Iran's nuclear programme, the Fars news agency reported on Monday, citing an unnamed government source. The report was also carried by the government newspaper Iran and the reformist daily Shargh.

Talks on Friday

US news site Axios cited two unnamed sources saying Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi was expected to meet with US envoy Steve Witkoff on Friday in Istanbul to discuss a possible deal on the nuclear file.

Trump had warned "time is running out" for Iran to reach a deal on its nuclear programme, which the West believes is aimed at making an atomic bomb, a claim Tehran has repeatedly denied. In an interview Sunday with CNN, Araghchi said, "President Trump said no nuclear weapons, and we fully agree. We fully agree with that. That could be a very good deal," adding that, "in return, we expect sanctions lifting".

People jog on a beach next to the pre-1979 "Lion and Sun" flag of Iran, in Tel Aviv, Israel, on Monday. REUTERS

Iran foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said earlier Monday Tehran was working on a method and framework for talks that would be ready in the coming days.

Turkey has led a diplomatic push to defuse tensions, with Araghchi visiting Istanbul last week and speaking with other regional counterparts, including in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

USISPF welcomes US-India trade deal

NEW YORK, PTI: The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) on Monday enthusiastically welcomed US President Donald Trump's announcement following his conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, reaffirming their shared commitment to deepen the US–India economic partnership and advance a bilateral trade agreement.

India and the US have agreed on a trade deal under which Washington will reduce the reciprocal tariff on Indian goods to 18% from the current 25%, Trump announced on Monday. USISPF said the reduction in India's reciprocal tariff marks "an important and positive first step".

"While the agreement's specifics are pending, today's announcement signals strong political will on both sides to move toward a comprehensive US–India Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) that addresses tariffs, market access, non-tariff barriers and other trade-related issues across a wide range of sectors," it said.

A BTA between the two nations would deliver meaningful benefits for businesses, workers and consumers in both countries, while strengthening supply chains and economic resilience, it added.

Chamarajangara Dist. Co-Operative Milk Union Ltd.,
Kuderu Village & Post, Santhemarahalli Hobli, Chamarajanagara - 571 316
Phone No. :08226-234848, E-mail: enggchamul@gmail.com

No: CHAMUL /ENGG/M(E)/TENDER/TECHNICAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES/2025-26 DATE: 03.02.2026

TENDER INVITATION
TENDER FOR PROVIDING TECHNICAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES (ICE-CREAM PLANT MECHANICAL WORKS) FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF 10KLPD ICE-CREAM PLANT, (EXPANDABLE TO 15KLPD) AT KUDERU, CHAMARAJANAGARA. (THROUGH KPPP PORTAL)

- Chamarajanagar Co-operative Milk Union Ltd. (CHAMUL) Chamarajanagar, intends to establish state of the art Ice-Cream plant of capacity 10 KLPD (expandable to 15KLPD) at Kuderu, Chamarajanagara. The project site is located at Kuderu Village, Santhemarahalli Hobli, Chamarajanagara Dist.
- Interested reputed technical consultants who have minimum 10 years working experience in ice-cream plants of similar capacity and have provided technical consultancy (mechanical works) in establishing at least two state of the art Ice-cream plants (of similar capacity) incorporating recent technologies with an outlay of (minimum) Rs.20.00 crores each in the past five years. The Ice-cream plants must be in successful operation since at least one year. Interested bidders may participate in the tender through KTPP Portal under the existing system (Technical & Financial) and submit their tender through web site **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from : **03.02.2026**
2. Last date and time for Tender submission : **18.02.2026 up to 04:00 PM**
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on : **19.02.2026 at 04:05 PM**

Bidders are advised to refer and understand terms and conditions stipulated in the tender document before quoting. For technical clarifications if any, bidders may contact Manager (Engg),CHAMUL during working hours.
Mob. No. 8867915047

For Chamarajanagar Dist. Co-operative Milk Producers Societies Union Ltd.,
Sd/- Managing Director

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal)

BESCOM invites tenders through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for Procurement of 9Mtr 200KG PSCC Poles.

Sl. No.	Description	Enquiry No
1	BRC Circle Lot-1	BESCOM/2025-26/IND0195
2	BRC Circle Lot-2	BESCOM/2025-26/IND0196
3	BESCOM Lot-1	BESCOM/2025-26/IND0197
4	BESCOM Lot-2	BESCOM/2025-26/IND0198
5	BESCOM Lot-3	BESCOM/2025-26/IND0199
6	BESCOM Lot-4	BESCOM/2025-26/IND0200

Bid documents will be available from **04-02-2026** onwards. Last Date for Bid submission is **06-03-2026** at **17:00** hrs. Bid Documents will be opened on **07-03-2026** at **17:15** hrs. The Tenders can be obtained through KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Aspiring bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take the assistance with KPP portal helpdesk contact numbers (+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777, 09240214000 & 09240214001) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com

For electricity related complaints Call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Ele.,)
Procurement, BESCOM

CHITRADURGA URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, CHITRADURGA
Telephone No:08194 222984

CUDA/TENDER/2025-2026 Date: 02-02-2026

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

In the jurisdiction of Chitradurga Urban Development Authority tender has been called for 3 different works. Eligible contractors can participate in the tender. Last date for submission date: 16-02-2026, 5.30 PM. For more information visit the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/637/2025-26

Sd/- Commissioner, Urban Development Authority, Chitradurga

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Marathahalli Division, Bellandur Main Road, Bellanduru,Bengaluru-560 103.

No:BECC/EE/MRH/TN/05/2025-26 Date: 02-02-2026

Invitation for Short Term Tenders
(Only through KPP Portal)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Executive Engineer, Marathahalli Division, Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) invites request for proposal from interested persons/firms those **who have done similar type of work** for **Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC)** for the below works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for the "Comprehensive Development of Roads and Drains and other allied works in Marathahalli Ward, Bellanduru Ward and Munnekollala Ward in Mahadevapura Constituency under GOK Grants". **EMD Amount in ₹: 18,750/-.**
2.	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for the "Resurfacing of existing Road and Improvements of Drain in Wind Tunnel Road, Yamlur Road and via Kempapura Yamaluru to Old Airport Road (Yemuluru Junction) in Mahadevapura Division, MRH-Package-1". **EMD Amount in ₹: 37,500/-.**
3.	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for the "Resurfacing and Improvements of Drain & Footpath of Major Roads in Munekolal Bellanduru & Panathur Ward of Marathahalli Division, MRH-Package-2". **EMD Amount in ₹: 37,500/-.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for submission of queries: **09.02.2026 within 11:00 a.m. (2)** Date &Time for Pre bid Meeting :**09.02.2026 at 3:00 p.m. (3)** Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders: **19.02.2026 upto 4:00 p.m. (4)** Date & Time for Opening Technical bid : **20.02.2026 at 4:00 p.m. (5)** Date & Time for Opening Financial bid: **21.02.2026 at 4:30 p.m.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Marathahalli Division, BECC.

Ather Energy Q3 net loss narrows to Rs 85 crore

NEW DELHI, PTI: Electric two-wheeler maker Ather Energy on Monday reported narrowing of the net loss to Rs 85 crore for the third quarter ended December 31, 2025.

The company reported a net loss of Rs 198 crore in the October-December quarter of the previous fiscal.

Total income increased to Rs 996 crore for the third quarter, as against Rs 650 crore in the year-ago period, Ather Energy said in a regulatory filing.

The company said it recorded its highest-ever quarterly volumes of 67,851 units, delivering 50% year-on-year growth, it added.

Ather said its losses continued to shrink, with EBITDA loss down to Rs 29.9 crore, and the quarterly loss narrowing by 45% as compared to Q2 FY26, underscoring steady progress toward profitable, sustainable growth.

"Q3 has been a strong quarter for us. Robust festive demand, healthy volume growth, and improving market share together drove our best quarterly revenue and EBITDA so far," Ather Energy Executive Director and CEO Tarun Mehta stated.

Push for municipal bond issuances to boost urban finances

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

In the Union Budget 2026-27, many long-awaited measures have been announced, including total return swaps and a market-making framework that will help deepen the corporate bond market.

On Sunday, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed to introduce a market-making framework with suitable access to funds and derivatives on corporate bond indices. She also proposed to introduce total return swaps on corporate bonds.

Experts said these measures will gradually reduce overreliance on bank financing. Jyoti Prakash Gadia, Managing Director, Resurgent India Limited, said these measures (total return swaps, incentives for larger municipal bond issuances) will gradually reduce overreliance on bank financing for both infrastructure and urban development.

To encourage the issuance of municipal bonds of higher value by large cities, the FM proposed an incentive of Rs 100 crore for a single bond issuance of more than Rs 1,000 crore. The current scheme under AMRUT, which incentivises issuances up to Rs 200 crore, will also continue to support smaller and medium towns, she said.

PwC stated that municipal bond-related measures are

anticipated to be useful for facilitating funding for urban infrastructure.

Also, individual Persons Resident Outside India (PROI) will be permitted to invest in equity instruments of listed Indian companies through the Portfolio Investment Scheme. Experts said this direct investment in listed equities will improve liquidity.

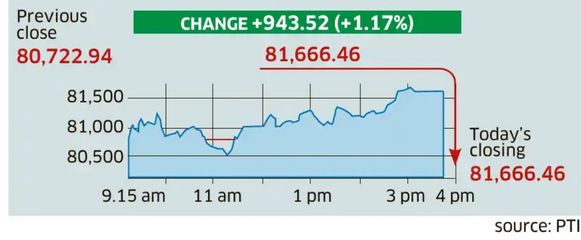
"It is also proposed to increase the investment limit for an individual PROI under this scheme from 5% to 10%, with an overall investment limit for all individual PROIs to 24%, from the current 10%," the FM announced on Sunday.

Complementary financial market reforms — including strengthening corporate bond markets, introducing bond derivatives and incentivising large municipal bond issuances — will broaden funding avenues for NBFCs and institutional borrowers. These measures clearly position NBFCs to play a central role in the next phase of India's credit-led growth, said Arvind Kapil, MD and CEO of Poonawalla Fincorp.

Introduction of Total Return Swaps (TRS) into Indian financial markets can deepen liquidity and broaden investor access by allowing both domestic and global investors to gain exposure to Indian bonds without directly holding them, Sanjay Doshi, Partner and Head, Transaction Services and Financial Services Advisory, KPMG in India, said.

"This enhances risk-management options, attracts foreign capital through easier participation channels like GIT City, and supports the growth of India's expanding credit and bond markets," he added.

BSE Sensex February 2, 2026



source: PTI

Stock exchanges rebound over 1% on value buying

Decline in crude prices helped key indices recover

MUMBAI, PTI

Stock markets rebounded on Monday with benchmark Sensex jumping by 943 points on value buying in blue-chip oil & gas, banking and auto shares after facing a massive drubbing on the Budget day.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rallied 943.52 points (1.17%), to settle at 81,666.46. During the day, it surged 1,009.31 points (1.25%) to 81,732.25.

The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 262.95 points (1.06%) to end at 25,088.40. During the day, it advanced 282.65 points (1.13%) to 25,108.10.

Value buying after a sharp correction on Budget day and a steep decline in global crude prices helped key indices recover, experts said.

From the Sensex firms, Power Grid jumped 7.61% and Adani Ports climbed 4.76%.

Bharat Electronics, Reliance Industries, Mahindra & Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro, InterGlobe Aviation, ICICI Bank and UltraTech Cement were among the other major gainers. Axis Bank, Infosys, TCS, Trent and Titan were the laggards.

Among indices, BSE Utilities jumped the most by 2.66%, followed by power (2.54%), services (2.38%), energy (1.98%), auto (1.98%), oil & gas (1.92%) and metal (1.90%). IT, BSE Focused IT and healthcare were the laggards.

India's manufacturing sector activity witnessed a slight recovery in January, amid faster increase in new orders, even as business confidence slipped to its lowest level in three-and-a-half years, a survey said on Monday.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday announced measures to boost manufacturing, offered long-term tax incentives for global data centres, and support for agriculture and tourism, unveiling a Rs 53.5 lakh crore Union Budget for 2026-27.

On Sunday, Sensex ended at 80,722.94, down 1,546.84 points or 1.88%.

The Nifty tanked 495.20 points or 1.96% to settle at 24,825.45.

Rupee rises 44 paise versus $

The rupee gained 44 paise to close at 91.49 against the US dollar on Monday, a day after the Union Budget 2026-27 was presented, largely as crude oil prices retreated from their elevated levels.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 91.95 against the US dollar, then gained some ground to touch an intraday high of 91.45 and a low of 91.95 against the greenback. Meanwhile, the dollar index was trading 0.09% higher at 97.07.

'Low confidence in currencies leading to gold price volatility'

Sitharaman says customs duty cut not due to US tariffs

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Stock traders watch Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman present the Budget in Mumbai on Sunday. REUTERS FILE PHOTO

The volatility in gold prices is due to global uncertainties and investors' lack of confidence in major currencies, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday.

"It shows that investors don't have confidence in any particular currency," Sitharaman said at a post-Budget interaction with journalists.

Aggressive buying by several central banks has also added to the surge in the price of gold and silver, she said.

Central banks of many countries including China, Russia and Brazil have significantly increased their gold reserves amid growing geopolitical tensions.

US President Donald Trump's rift with the Federal Reserve impacted investors' confidence in the American dollar, forcing them to look for safe-haven instruments.

Gold price rose to a record high of $5,595.47 an ounce last week, while silver reached an all-time peak above $120 an ounce in the global market. On the Multi-Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold crossed past Rs 1.8 lakh per 10 gram, while silver set a new record of Rs 4 lakh per kg on Thursday.

However, gold and silver prices have declined sharply in the past couple of days after Trump named former Fed official Kevin Warsh to replace Jerome Powell as chair of the US central bank.

When asked about the impact of US tariffs on customs reform announced in the Union Budget, Sitharaman said Budget decisions have not been impacted by the US tariff or any other global developments.

"Since last year, I have been openly saying that customs reform is the next one. As a continuation of that, this has happened," she added.

On the Budgetary proposal to increase the Security Transaction Tax (STT), the finance minister said the decision has been taken to discourage people from highly-speculative trading in derivatives.

In the Union Budget 2026-27 presented on Sunday, Sitharaman proposed to increase STT on futures trading from the current 0.02% to 0.05% and tax on options trading is proposed to be increased from 0.1% to 0.15%.

This led to a sharp decline in the stock markets with Sensex and Nifty 50 slumping by around 2%. However, the markets recovered partly on Monday.

Sitharaman ruled out any possibility of rolling back the increase in STT.

The FM also informed that the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Amendment Bill will be introduced in Parliament in the second half of the Budget session beginning March 9.

The IBC Amendment Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha in August last year. However, it was thereafter referred to a select committee.

FPIs withdraw Rs 36,000 crore in January

NEW DELHI, PTI: Foreign Portfolio Investors remained in a selling mode in January, withdrawing nearly Rs 36,000 crore (about $3.97 billion) amid global uncertainties.

Meanwhile, a higher securities transaction tax (STT) proposed in the Budget may weigh on overseas investor participation in the near future.

The recent flight of foreign capital followed the worst outflow of Rs 1.66 lakh crore recorded in 2025, triggered by volatile currency movements, global trade tensions and concerns over potential US tariffs and stretched market valuations. The sharp increase of STT in futures and options may act as a marginal negative for FPI flows in the near term, particularly for high-frequency and derivative-focused global funds, said Aakash Shah, Technical Research Analyst at Choice Equity Broking.

AI disruption: Need to evolve skills if necessary, says Kharge

BENGALURU, DHNS: IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge said Karnataka contributes close to 20% of the country's media and entertainment industry, with over 300 AVGC-XR studios present here.

Announcing the seventh edition of Bengaluru GAFX 2026, the annual conference and exhibition for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, XR, and immersive and interactive content to be held from February 27-March 1, the minister said the theme this year is 'Evolution Reloaded', which reflects the next phase of growth in the AVGC and immersive media segments.

"AI has disrupted so much that we have to re-evolve. We may need to evolve our policy and skill sets. More importantly, we need to evolve business processes," he said.

The state government has previously allocated Rs 150 crore towards AVGC-XR policy for 2024-29. "We have identified the orange economy much earlier, and we will ensure that we accelerate ourselves in this sector," Kharge said.

The AVGC policy is designed to accelerate growth across AVGC and emerging creative technologies. The

IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge and ABAI President Biren Ghose at a press meet in Bengaluru on Monday.

government also aims to create nearly 50,000 jobs in another couple of years through AVGC-XR policy. At present, the state employs about 15,000 professionals.

The Karnataka government, in association with the Association of Bangalore Animation Industry (ABAI) and Startup Karnataka, will conduct Bengaluru GAFX 2026.

The event will bring together creators, studios, technologists, investors, and industry leaders from across the global media and entertainment ecosystem.

With over 200 speakers across 100 sessions, masterclasses and workshops, GAFX 2026 will host global experts from leading studios such as ILM, Netflix, MrX, Base FX, Monk Studios and The Perlin.

Oracle may fire over 20k staff

BENGALURU, DHNS: Oracle plans to raise up to $50 billion this year, as the company is all set to expand capacity for its cloud infrastructure, while also noticing demand from major AI customers.

Meanwhile, reports suggested that Oracle is considering laying off 20,000-30,000 employees. It is said that the layoffs could be part of its strategy to secure more funds for AI plans.

Mfg sector activity sees slight recovery in Jan: PMI

NEW DELHI, PTI

India's manufacturing sector activity witnessed a slight recovery in January, amid faster increase in new orders, even as business confidence slipped to its lowest level in three-and-half years, a monthly survey said on Monday.

The seasonally-adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), rose from a two-year low of 55 in December to 55.4 in January.

In the PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"Indian manufacturing firms saw a rebound in January, driven by increased new orders, output, and employment. Input costs rose moderately, while the pace of growth in factory-gate prices eased, resulting in slight margin pressure for manufacturers," said Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC.

Survey participants mentioned that demand buoyancy, new business growth and tech investment supported production.

The main impetus to overall sales came from the domestic market. However, new export business increased, but at a weaker pace. Firms that experienced an uptick cited greater demand from Asia, Australia, Canada, Europe, and the Middle East.

On the job front, goods producers continued to hire extra staff. But the pace of job creation was 'slight', the quickest in three months.

Meanwhile, business confidence slipped to its lowest level in three-and-half years during January, as only 15% of companies foresee output growth in the year ahead and 83% forecast no change.

"Despite faster growth in new orders, business confidence remains muted, and expectations for future output have declined to their lowest level since July 2022," Bhandari added.

On the price front, the survey noted that input prices rose to the greatest extent in four months, but output charge inflation retreated to a 22-month low.

"Although output charges rose, the rate of inflation was modest and the weakest in nearly two years. Many firms suggested that improved efficiency, better cost management and market rivalry prevented them from increasing their fees," the survey said.

The HSBC India Manufacturing PMI is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to purchasing managers in a panel of around 400 manufacturers. The panel is stratified by detailed sector and company workforce size, based on contributions to GDP.

PRODUCTION PULL

- **Demand buoyancy**, new business growth and tech investment support production
- Increase in **new export** business, but at weaker pace
- Firms cite greater demand from **Asia, Australia, Canada, Europe**, and the **Middle East**
- **Input prices** rise to greatest extent in four months
- But output charge inflation retreats to **22-month low**

KARNATAKA STATE CO.OPERATIVE CONSUMER'S FEDERATION LTD.,
No.4, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560018.
Ph.no. **080-26702504** E-mail: **ksccfltd1964@gmail.com**
No: KSCCF/ADM/2025-26/706 Date: 02.02.2026

NOTIFICATION INVITING TENDER (NIT) (Through KPP Portal)

KSCCF invites Tenders for below mentioned work through KPP Portal of GoK **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from eligible Tender.

Sl.No.	Name of the work	Estimate cost in Rs.	EMD in Rs.
1	Civil works related to proposed construction of Janatha Bazaar Building at Badepur Layout, Kalaburagi.	Rs. 24,05,000.00 (GST shall be paid to Tendered amount Separately)	Rs.48,100.00

Last date for submission of Tender: **13.02.2026 at 5.00 P.M**
Date & time of Opening of Tenders: **16.02.2026 at 12.30 P.M**
Tender document Number KSCOCFL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT2
Sd/- Managing Director

Karnataka State
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Shimoga Division, Shimoga
No.EE/PWD/Smg/AE-2/IFT-52/2025-26 Dtd:31-01-2026
Short Term Tender Notification -2 Cover system
Tender invited thro' E-Procurement version-2 kppp.karnataka.gov.in for the below Indents by PWD Class-3 above Contractors For needful information please contact Office P.No. 08182-274942 and Helpdesk Ph Nos. 080-25501216/ 080-25501227)
All Contractors 3054-04-337-1-10-200 MDR Maintance
1. Hosanagara taluk 1 Work (I.No:32568)
Tender documents down loading & submission dates :
Date:31-01-2026 to 07-02-2026 (Work Completion 06 Months (Including Mansoon). If there any changes in published tenders it will be publishing in E-Procurement version-2 kppp.karnataka.gov.in Website only
Sd/-EE, PW Dept Division, Shimoga
DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/10/02/1741

BANGALORE CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Joint Commissioner Zone-1, Residency Road, Mayohall Bangalore-560001
Corrigendum
Advt Ref No. BCCC/JC-1/Tend/09/2025-26 dated 31.01.2026
The Expression of Interest (EOI) has been invited in this newpaper on 01.02.2026 for opening of an eye hospital in Ward 112 Domlur, Shantinagar Constituency. The signing authority should be read as "Joint Commissioner Zone-1" and not as published. The error is regretted.
Sd/- Joint Commissioner Zone-1,BCCC

CITY CORPORATION BELAGAVI
C.T.S. No. 4821/26, 4821/27, R.S. No. 1005, Subhasha Nagara, Belagavi, Ph. : 0831-2405304, E-mail : itstaff_ulb_belgaum@yahoo.com, Website : www.belgaumcity.mrc.gov.in
No. : C.C.B./P.W.D./E.E./DM/TND/E-Proc - 22/2025-26
Date : 02-02-2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION
The Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi invites tenders in accordance with KTPP Act1999 Rules 2000 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for **04 Number of Works** approved under **CMIDP Grant.**
1) Last Date for Queries : 11-02-2026 upto 5.00 p.m. 2) Pre-Bid Meeting : 12-02-2026 at 11.00 a.m. in Office of the Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi. 3) Last Date for Receipt of Tender : 18-02-2026 upto 4.00 p.m. 4) Date for Opening of Technical Bid : 20-02-2026 at 11.00 a.m. in Office of the Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi. 5) Date for Opening of Financial Bid : 21-02-2026 at 11.00 a.m. in Office of the Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi.
For more details visit online **Website : https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Any Addendum / Corrigendum will be published in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only.
Sd/- Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi.
DIPR/Belagavi/1744/Manipal/2025-26

TUMKUR URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Belagumba Road, Tumkur - 572103. Ph: 0816-2272280, Fax: 0816-2255761.
email: tudatmk2009@yahoo.co.in; website: tuda.co.in.
No.TUDA/Tech-AEE/Re-Tender-01/2025-26 Date: 31-01-2026
Tender Notification
Tenders are invited from eligible civil contractors for the works as per Karnataka Public Transparency Ordinance 1999-2000 and as per KW-2, KW-3, & KW-4, Standard Bid Document and latest amended provision through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka Web Address (https//kppp.karnataka.gov.in) Downloading Tender Documents from e-Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka. Submission of tenders online through e-procurement portal within the prescribed date and time.

	KW-2 & KW-3
Date of issuing of blank tender forms	Date. 31-01-2026 to D. 16-02-2026 Time 17-00 Hours
Last date for submission of filled tender forms	Date. 16-02-2026 Time 17-00 Hours
Time and date of technical bid opening	Date 18-10-2026 After 11-00 Am.
Date of opening of financial bids	After technical bid approval

	KW-2 & KW-3
Date of issuing of blank tender forms	Date. 31-01-2026 to D. 02-03-2026 Time 17-00 Hours
Last date for submission of filled tender forms	Date. 02-03-2026 Time 17-00 Hours
Time and date of technical bid opening	Date 04-03-2026 After 11-00 Am.
Date of opening of financial bids	After technical bid approval

For further details technical branch can be contacted during office hours.
Sd/- Commissioner,
Urban Development Authority, Tumakuru.
DIPR/TUM/RO-241/25-26/Oysters

Government of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MINOR IRRIGATION AND GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DIVISION,
KALABURAGI, e-mail: midnglb@rediffmail.com / midnglb1@gmail.com Ph.08472 - 220196
IFT No.EE/MI&GWD D/KAL/PB-3/2025-26/4564 Date : 30-01-2026
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT KW-1,3 & 4)
1) Detail of Work : **THE EXEUCTIVE ENGINEER, M.I. & G.W.D. DIVISION, KALABURAGI INVITES TENDER FROM THE ELIGIBLE TENDERERS FOR THE WORK UNDER 2025-26, 4702 A.P.B AND S.C.P. & T.S.P. FOR THE YEAR 2025-26,** 2) Amount of Estimate : Max. **Rs.241,02,845.94, Min. Rs. 3,43,481.25,** 3) Eligibility of Contractor : Class-IV & Above 4) Details of Tender Application Amount and EMD Amount : Tender Fee As Per KPP Portal E.M.D. Max. **Rs. 3,62,000.00 Min.Rs. 4,300.00,** 5) Pre-Bid Meeting Date & Time **10.02.2026 Upto 11.00 Hours**, 6) Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications : **11.02.2026** Upto 11.00 Hours, 7) Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders : 12-02-2026 Up to 17.30 Hours 8) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid : **13.02.2026 Up to 17.30 Hours**, 9) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid : **16.02.2026 Up to 17.30 Hours,** 10) Addl. information : Executive Engineer M.I. & G.W.D. Division, Kalaburagi, 11) Address of KPP-Portal : (https://kppp.Karnataka.gov.in)
Sd/- Executive Engineer
Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Division, Kalaburagi
DIPR/Kalaburagi/1041/Deshpande Publicity/2025-26

IN BRIEF

Drishtee takes top honours

▸ Drishtee Ghosh clinched the top honours in the 58th BRDCA Open Category Rapid Chess Tournament on Sunday, reports DHNS.

Drishtee scored 6.5 points to finish first ahead of Pratitee Bordoloi (6 points) and Pranav AJ (6 points), who took second and third places, respectively.

Results (only winners): Open category: Drishtee Ghosh (6.5 pts). **U-16 boys:** Palle Venkata Siddharth Reddy (6.5 pts); Girls: Chaithanya YS (4.5 pts). **U-12: Boys:** Abhay Uppoor Bhat (7 pts); Girls: Shivani Bai MH (6 pts). **U-9: Boys:** Agastya Raghav Kashyap (6 pts); Girls: Pragna Gupta RB (5 pts). **U-7: Boys:** Shreyansh Midde (6.5 pts); Girls: Adavala Venkata Vinamratha (6 pts).

India's Anahat emerges champ

▸ Indian teenage sensation Anahat Singh produced a stunning performance to upset top seed and world No. 10 Georgina Kennedy of England 12-10, 11-5, 11-7 and clinch her maiden PSA Bronze-level title at the Squash On Fire Open, reports PTI from New Delhi.

The triumph marked the biggest title of the 15-year-old's career and her 15th overall on the PSA Tour, achieved in just 26 tournaments, with the Delhi player.

The seventh seed Anahat showed remarkable composure in the final, reeling off four consecutive points to snatch the game.

Satheesh to lead State side

▸ Shubha Satheesh will lead Karnataka in the BCCI senior women's one-day trophy due to be held in Rajkot from February 6-18, reports DHNS.

Squad: Shubha Satheesh (captain), Monica C Patel (vice-captain), Shishira A Gowda, Niki Prasad, Mithila Vinod, Saloni P, Soumya Verma (WK), Shreya S Chavan (WK), Roshini Kiran, Namita D'Souza, Prerana GR, Pooja Kumari M, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Sahana S Pawar, BG Tejashwini. **Head coach:** Ameet SN; **Assistant coach:** Rakshitha Krishnappa; **Manager:** Pooja Jadav; **Strength & conditioning coach:** Kirti S; **Physiotherapist:** Ishita Kulkarni.

The Panther wins main event

DELHI RESULTS

The Panther, from the stables of S Nawab and ridden by Nazil, won the David Livingston Plate, the feature event of the Delhi races on Monday.

1. Superestrella Plate - 1200M: Vedagarbha (Rohit Gupta) Rakesh 1; Telekinesis (MB Qureshi) 2; Kaftan (Ankit Pal) 3; Daring Diva (Dhanu Deora) 4; Wb: 2-3/4l, Nk, Hd. T: 1:14.27. TB: VS Parmar. Fav: Telekinesis.

2. Light Of Magic Plate (Div I) - 1000M: Eyes On The Prize (Rajinder) Akash Rajput 1; Ashwa Kohima (Vishal Shivhare) 2; Time To Win (Angad) 3; Tomorrows Dreams (Saurav Rawat) 4; Wb: 1, Nk, 2-1/4L. T: 1:00.61. TB: Rajinder. Fav: Ashwa Kohima.

3. Light Of Magic Plate (Div II) - 1000M: Danny's Girl (Kapil Agarwal) Aasif Khan 1; Jet Sukhoi (Saurav Rawat) 2; Divit (SG Prasad) 3; Master Stoute (Riazuddin) 4; Wb: 6-1/2, 1-1/2, Nk. 1-00.43. TB: KP Singh. Fav: Danny's Girl.

4. Shining Force Plate - 1000M: Real Stuff (Rajesh Sehgal) Dhanu Deora 1; Golden Sun (Rakesh) 2; Big Decision (K Paswan) 3; Beejay (RN Manjhi) 4; Wb: 1-3/4, 1-1/4, 1-1/2L. T: 1:00.02. TB: Magan Singh. Fav: Ashwa Simran.

5. David Livingston Plate - 1400M: The Panther (Ravinder Pal Singh) Nazil 1; Lodge Keeper (Rakesh) 2; Bhujang (S.G.Prasad) 3; Eliminator (Angad) 4; Wb: 4-1/2, Nk, 1-3/4L. T: 1:24.74. TB: S Nawab. Fav: The Panther.

6. Grenadine Plate - 1400M: Lucky Lips (Bhagat Singh) Dhanu Deora 1; Jet Space (Arjun) 2; Dubai Falcon (Sunny Kumar) 3; Emperor Ashoka (Akash Rajput) 4; Wb: 1-1/4, 6, 3/4L. T: 1-26.62. TB: V.S.Parmar. Fav: Lucky Lips.

Bengaluru dividends:
I race: Rs 76w; 11, 11, 23p; Fc: Rs 144; Q: Rs 40; Shp: Rs 49; Thp: Rs 56; Tri: Rs 866 & 567; Ex: Rs 4,413 & 1,891.
II race: Rs 64w; 12, 12, 14p; Fc: Rs 309; Q: Rs 51; Shp: Rs 28; Thp: Rs 32; Tri: Rs 510 & 198; Ex: Rs 1,233 & 400.
III race: Rs 14w; 11, 13, 14p; Fc: Rs 78; Q: Rs 79; Shp: Rs 45; Thp: Rs 42; Tri: Rs 136 & 46; Ex: Rs 1,786 & 717.
IV race: Rs 38w; 20, 18, 55p; Fc: Rs 187; Q: Rs 80; Shp: Rs 45; Thp: Rs 177; Tri: Rs 1,946 & 1, 167; Ex: Rs 6,699 & 2,871.
V race: Rs 18w; 11, 11, 13p; Fc: Rs 51; Q: Rs 29; Shp: Rs 29; Thp: Rs 39; Tri: Rs 63 & 24; Ex: Rs 124 & 106.
VI race: Rs 29w; 13, 24, 26p; Fc: Rs 298; Q: Rs 152; Shp: Rs 49; Thp: Rs 64; Tri: Rs 1,171 & 573; Ex: Rs 1,308 & 560.
I jackpot: Rs 6,10 (33). **Runner-up:** Rs 527 (164). **Treble:** Rs 337 (248).

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

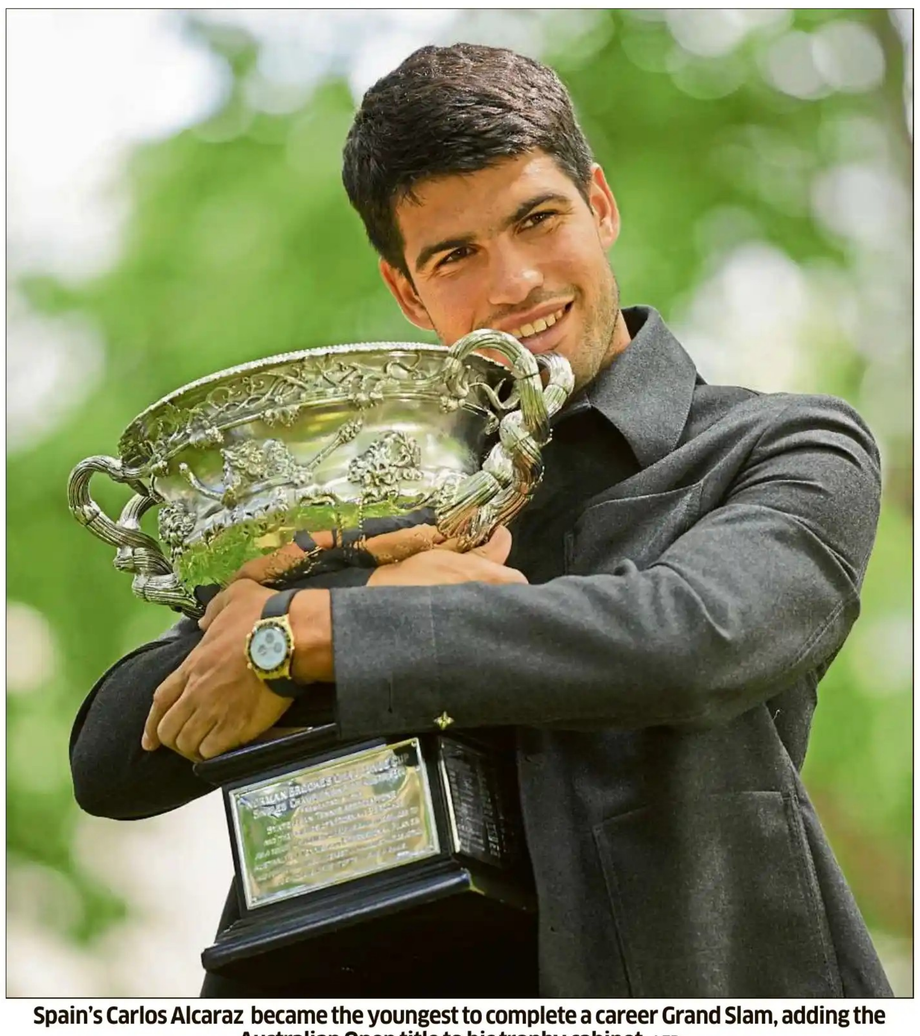
WPL Eliminator: Delhi Capitals vs Gujarat Giants (**7:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

U-19 WC Semifinal: Australia vs England (**1:00 pm**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 2, JioHotstar.**

TENNIS AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Hatred of losing drives relentless Alcaraz

22-year-old Spaniard targets elusive ATP Finals glory



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz became the youngest to complete a career Grand Slam, adding the Australian Open title to his trophy cabinet. AFP

MELBOURNE, AFP

Carlos Alcaraz says that his absolute hatred of losing drives him to keep making landmarks after becoming the youngest man to win all four Grand Slam tournaments.

The Spaniard beat Serbian great Novak Djokovic in four sets in Sunday's Australian Open final, adding his first Melbourne crown to his Wimbledon, US Open and French Open titles.

In doing it at the age of 22 he surpassed legendary compatriot Rafael Nadal, who was 24 when he completed a career Grand Slam of all four majors.

The now-retired Nadal was at Rod Laver Arena to see the world No. 1 beat Djokovic 2-6, 6-2, 6-3, 7-5, and Alcaraz said his presence helped inspire him to victory.

It was Alcaraz's seventh major title and he will head to the other three Grand Slams in 2026 as the man to beat once more, with world No. 2 Jannik Sinner his closest rival.

"I hate losing, so that's my motivation," said Alcaraz, who plans to have a tattoo of a kangaroo to mark his achievement.

He declined to say if a rare calendar Grand Slam -- winning all four majors in the same year -- was next on his hit-list.

"Well, it's going to be a big challenge. Those are big words, to be honest. You know, I just want it to be one at a time," he said.

But Alcaraz does want to win the season-ending ATP Finals, having been defeated by the Italian Sinner last year in the title decider.

And a Davis Cup crown with Spain is also on his radar.

Alcaraz surprisingly split with coach Juan Carlos Ferrero in December after seven hugely successful years together, with assistant coach Samuel Lopez taking over.

He has not divulged the reasons behind the change in any depth, but took satisfaction from triumphing in Melbourne given all the speculation beforehand.

"Just happy to prove all the people were wrong," Alcaraz said.

'Honour to make history'

Among Alcaraz's milestones, his maiden Slam, at the US Open in 2022, made him the youngest champion of a men's major since Nadal at the 2005 French Open.

He was also the youngest man to ascend to the world number one ranking.

His Roland Garros coronation in 2024 ensured he was the youngest to win Grand Slam titles on clay, grass and hard courts.

At this rate, Alcaraz is well on course to go down as one of the best in the history of tennis.

But for now, he just wants to enjoy the moment and take in what he has done over the past fortnight and in his young career so far.

"Right now I'm just trying to have time to realise what I've been doing," he said.

"I know I'm making history with some trophies, some tournaments, some achievements that I've been getting.

"For me it's an honour to put my name in the history books."

Djokovic hints at retirement as time seeps away for history

Novak Djokovic leaves the Australian Open still stuck on 24 Grand Slam titles and with fresh doubts about how many more tries he will have at winning an outright-record 25th, reports AFP from Melbourne.

The 38-year-old has consistently dismissed talk of retirement and said he is eyeing the defence of his Olympic gold at the Los Angeles Games in 2028.

But after losing to Carlos Alcaraz in four sets in the final on Sunday, the Serb suggested he may not be back in Melbourne.

"God knows what happens tomorrow, let alone in six months or 12 months," he told the crowd at Rod Laver Arena.

"So it has been a great ride. I love you guys."

Djokovic has won a record 10 Australian Opens and until Sunday had never lost a final there.

But for all his success, he has not always had an easy relationship in Australia.

"I want to just say in the end that you guys, particularly the last couple of matches, gave me something that I have never experienced."

Fit-again Nair returns for Ranji quarters

Karnataka face Mumbai at the BKC Ground from Feb 6

Karun Nair

BENGALURU, DHNS

A fit-again Karun Nair on Monday returned to the Karnataka squad for the Ranji Trophy quarterfinals against arch-rivals Mumbai at the BKC ground from February 6-10, with the eight-time winners also bolstered by India pacer Prasidh Krishna.

Nair, who split his webbing on the left hand during the penultimate Elite Group B game against Madhya Pradesh in Alur, sat out of the final game against Punjab in Mohali where Karnataka produced a chase for the ages to secure their last-eight ticket against all odds.

Veteran Nair's return along with the presence of his long-time friends KL Rahul, who played against Punjab, and Mayank Agarwal now gives the Karnataka batting order a hefty look for the crunch game.

Add new captain Devdutt Padikkal, who smashed a scintillating 120 not out off 85 balls as Karnataka scaled down 252 in just 27.5 overs on Sunday against Punjab, and R Smaran, Karnataka will be brimming with confidence.

Pacer Vyshak Vijaykumar win miss out against because of injury but Karnataka have been strengthened by Prasidh.

Squad: Mayank Agarwal, KL Rahul, Aneesh KV, Devdutt Padikkal (captain), Karun Nair, R Smaran, Shreyas Gopal, Kruthik Krishna (WK), Venkatesh M, Vidyadhar Patil, Prasidh Krishna, Mohsin Khan, Shikhar Shetty, Shrijith KL (WK), Vidwath Kaverappa.

Dhruv included

Having spent time with the senior squad during their sensational win over Punjab in the final Ranji Trophy group game, Dhruv Prabhakar returned to the Karnataka U-23 side for their Col CK Nayudu fixture against hosts Uttarakhand (February 6) and Himachal Pradesh (February 13).

Squad: Prakhar Chaturvedi, Faizan Khan (wk), KP Karthikeya, Dhruv Prabhakar (vc), Aneeshwar Gautam (c), Harshil Dharmani, Hardik Raj, Yashovardhan Parantap, Manvanth Kumar L, Dhanush Gowda, Samit Dravid, Karthik SU, Shashikumar, Sanjay Ashwin (wk), Monish Reddy.

Shardul, Jaiswal back for Mumbai

MUMBAI, PTI: Skipper Shardul Thakur and India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal on Monday returned to the Mumbai squad for the Ranji Trophy quarterfinal against Karnataka to be played here from February 6.

Mumbai had topped the Elite Group D with four wins and three draws while Karnataka made it to the last eight with a thrilling victory against Punjab in their Group A match.

Squad: Shardul Thakur (capt), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Musheer Khan, Sarfaraz Khan, Siddhesh Lad, Akhil Herwadkar, Aakash Anand (wk), Hardik Tamore (wk), Sairaj Patil, Shams Mulani, Tanush Kotian, Tushar Deshpande, Mohit Avasthi, Onkar Tarmale, Divyansh Saxena, Suryansh Shedge.

AFI raises bar for CWG qualification

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

100m sprinters like Animesh Kujur (second from right) and Manikanta Hoblidhar (right) will have to breach the national record once again to qualify for the CWG.

Athletics Federation of India (AFI) set the standards high for the qualification of Commonwealth Games with a maximum of 32 spots, including 16 female athletes, up for grabs for the quadrennial event in Glasgow in July-August.

In more than 10 events — including 100m, 400m and hurdles — track and field athletes will have to breach the national record (NR) in order to qualify for the event and for valid reasons given the standard of the competition with nations such as Jamaica, Australia, Canada, among others.

National Senior Athletics Federation Competition in Ranchi on May 22-25 will also serve as the final selection trials for the CWG, including those who have breached the qualification mark earlier in the season. However, AFI may exempt some of the athletes under special circumstances, such as participation in any major competition in the same window.

As far as direct qualification is concerned, 100m sprinters such as Animesh Kujur (NR at 10.18), Manikanta Hoblidhar, Gurindervir Singh among others will have to reset the best Indian timing at 10.16 alike the Asian Games qualification mark.

The standards are set high for 400m too with the likes of Vishal TK (NR at 45.12), Muhammed Anas, Rajesh Ramesh, Amoj Jacob and others will have to breach the unprecedented 45-second barrier (44.96).

Relay teams in both the running events will have a shot at qualification for the World Athletics Relays (on May 2-3 in Botswana), with National Open Relays on March 28 in Chandigarh to serve as the selection trials. A couple of foreign teams are expected to compete in the event too in order to register India's official timing for qualification purposes, confirmed AFI's vice-president Anju Bobby George.

CWG entry standards are set high for the hurdles event too as the likes of Tejas Shirse (NR at 13.41) and Jyothi Yarraji (12.78), who is all set to make a comeback from injury, will have to reset their records at 13.39 and 12.67 in men's 110m and women's 100m hurdles, respectively.

In the women's 400m hurdles, Vithya Ramraj, who has matched PT Usha's 55.42 record, will have to improve her timing to 54.67 seconds at least.

In the field events, javelin throw may see multiple entries with the qualification mark set at 82.61 metre. The likes of Neeraj Chopra (NR at 90.23), Sachin Yadav (86.27) and Rohit Yadav (83.65) will fancy their chances of qualifying at the earliest.

Bar has been in all the jump events for women too, especially in the long jump. The likes of Shaili Singh, Ancy Sojan and Nayana James will have to break Anju's long-standing NR of 6.84m.

Prasanna 7-for fires Star Cricketers to victory

BENGALURU, DHNS: Prasanna G's rich haul of 7/20 proved decisive as Star Cricketers XI posted a comfortable seven-wicket victory over Seshadripuram PU College in the latest round of matches of the KSCA Group I-V Division league cum knockout tournament for JB Mallaradhya Shield.

LOCAL CRICKET

Prasanna's spell bundled out Seshadripuram for 81 in 21.1 overs while Harsha AR (47) and Prashanth Giridhara (28 n.o.) took the team to the paltry total in just 7.4 overs.

Brief scores: Seshadripuram PU College: 81 all out in 21.1 overs (Akhilesh Shetty 2-30, Prasanna G 7-20) lt to Star Cricketers XI: 82/3 in 7.4 overs (Harsha AR 47, Prashanth Giridhara 28 n.o.; Dhyan S 2-17).

Bangalore United (2): 225 all out in 47.4 overs (Yash Rajanna 39, Gagan K 31, Anas S 25, Umar L 27, Davin Glenn Mascarenhas 49 n.o., Neil Bhatnagar 2-19, Siddarth H Jeglee 2-50) lt to Deccan United: 226/7 in 39 overs (Aarav Adiga B 40, Nithin AV 28, Paarth Madan 47, Abhijith Karanth KN 66 n.o.), Davin Glenn Mascarenhas 2-30, Yash Rajanna 3-48).

SSK Cricket Club: 255 all out in 49.4 overs (Satheesha V 107, Ranganatha KS 32, Anil Kumar V 35, Sridhar MS 30; Ajith 4-54, Praveen Balraj J 3-21) lt to Johnson Cricket Club: 256/5 in 33 overs [Syed Muteeb Uddin 60, Aaryan Aiyappa 26, Praveen Balraj J 51, Ajith 42 n.o., Chandrabose KR 41 n.o., Anil Kumar V 2-33).

Harmanpreet, Smriti among nominees

NEW DELHI, PTI: Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and her deputy Smriti Mandhana, who were central to India's historic 2025 Women's World Cup triumph, and chess prodigy Divya Deshmukh are among the nominees for the 2025 BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year Awards.

Pistol shooting sensation Suruchi Singh and track and field athlete Jyothi Yarraji are the other two nominations for the prestigious annual award for the year 2025.

Tanvi Sharma

India sans Sindhu face stiff test at Asia Team C'ships

QINGDAO (CHINA), PTI: A depleted Indian women's side will face an uphill task in defending its crown without talisman PV Sindhu, while the men will bank on a seasoned core to mount a strong podium challenge at the Badminton Asia Team Championships beginning here on Tuesday.

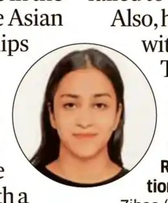
India had scripted history by clinching their maiden women's team gold in the last edition in Malaysia, but Sindhu's withdrawal due to a niggle has dealt a significant blow to their medal hopes.

The absence of the two-time Olympic medallist leaves the younger crop, led by Tanvi Sharma, with the responsibility of carrying the campaign.

The 17-year-old from Punjab was part of the champion team in 2024 although she didn't get to play any games. In two years, Tanvi has emerged as the next big hope in women's singles with a silver medal at the World Junior Championships in Guwahati and a final finish at the US Open Super 300.

She made a rollicking start to the season, pushing world No. 2 Wang Zhi Yi and world No. 9 Tomoka Miyazaki to deciders at the India Open and Indonesia Masters, proving she can compete with the world's best. Unnati Hooda, 18, is also coming into the tournament after a successful 2025 season where she achieved a career-high world ranking of No. 23 and defeated Sindhu at the China Open. The youngest Indian ever to win a BWF Super 100 title, Unnati ended 2025 with a title.

Amee, Keerthana begin well



BENGALURU, DHNS: Former champion Amee Kamani and fellow Indian Keerthana Pandian **(in pic)** kick-started their campaign in style in the women's section of the Asian Snooker Championships here on Monday.

Amee scored a comfortable 2-0 win over compatriot Ishika Shah in Group C. Amee took the first frame with a break of 35 and closed out the match in the next with small breaks.

Keerthana too scored a straight-frame victory, edging out countrywoman Snenthra Babu in Group D.

India's Anupama Ramachandran, the reigning IBSF World champion, suffered a 0-2 reverse at the hands of Hong Kong's Yee Ting Cheung in a Group B fixture.

In the men's section, Ketan Chawla went down fighting 2-4 in the first knockout round to China's Dong Zihao. Chawla had his chances, but failed to take them.

Also, he was a trifle unlucky with the roll of the balls. The India No. 3 could have won the second, but let slip the advantage.

Results (Indians unless mentioned): Men: Round 1: Dong Zihao (Chn) bt Ketan Chawla 4-2 (65-22, 66-37, 0-120 (97), 66 (56) -5, 17-61, 63-34).
League: Group B: Chawla bt Abdulla Alaali (Bhn) 4-0 (82-22, 71 (65) -14, 63-5, 100 (71) -1).
Group J: Laxman Rawat bt Chau Hon Man (HK) 4-3 (41-68, 27-58, 22-63, 119 (75) -7, 62-22, 58-35, 1-0).
U-21: Aarav Sancheti bt Murtaza Noori (Afg) 3-0 (73 (50) -20, 50-12, 53-46).
Women: Group B: Yee Ting Cheung (HK) bt Anupama Ramachandran 2-0 (57-30, 53-25).
Group C: Amee Kamani bt Ishika Shah 2-0 (35-24, 49-6).
Group D: Keerthana Pandian bt Snenthra Babu 2-0 (69-46, 41-37).

Niyab nets winner for DYES

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mohammed Niyab scored a 69th-minute winner as DYES FC edged out Jawahar Union FC 2-1 in the BDFA A Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Monday.

Vedant Pandey's 15th-minute opener for DYES was cancelled out by Manggoulal Kipgen's goal at the stroke of halftime for Jawahar Union before Niyab made the difference with his second-half winner.

Results: A Division: DYES FC: 2 (Vedant Pandey 15th, Mohammed Niyab 69th) bt Jawahar Union FC: 1 (Manggoulal Kipgen 45th).
B Division: Group A: Mysore Vijayanagar FC: 2 (C Rishabh Cariappa 13th, Mayur Kshetragna 39th) bt Vehicles FC: 0; South India FC: 3 (Moirang Them Yaikhomba 38th, 40+1, Aayush Verma 41st) bt MD Sporting FC: 0; Pillanna Garden FC: 4 (Gasper Anthony 21st, 23rd, 59th, Vishweswaraiah Y 33rd) drew with AL Fateh FC: 4 (Zaib Sherief 14th, 13th, 18th, 71st).

ISL finds broadcast partners

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

ISL Trophy

FanCode and Kaleidoscope Studios (KPS) have won the broadcasting rights for the much-delayed Indian Super League season, which is all set to start in less than a fortnight.

FanCode won the digital and TV broadcasting rights while Kolkata-based KPS won the production rights for the world feed after the All India Football Federation (AIFF) released the tender or request for proposal last month.

FanCode, who made a bid of Rs 8.62 crore for a complete package (TV, digital and production), outbid ABP Network (bid Rs 6.89 crore for digital and production) and JioTV (Rs 5 cr for only digital) in the race. KPS made a bid of Rs 5.25 crore for the production rights. AIFF made over Rs 3 cr from the deals which goes into the league's fund.

Other competitors, Monarch with PR Solution and UK-based firm Two Circles, could not make it to the final bidding process.

The winning bid amounts are a sharp fall in the broadcast deal from the last season with previous partners — including Star Sports Network, Sports18 and AsiaNet — at Rs 275 crore, suggesting a drop in the quality of broadcast, including the money spent on advertisement of the league in the past.

With the broadcast deal in place, AIFF are soon to announce the fixtures for the season while the league remains without a private sponsor for the season.

It's also important to note that this broadcasting deal is only for the 91-match truncated season while the long-term broadcast deal tender (as per the 20-year-plan of AIFF) may come out by the end of this month.

Sources in FanCode revealed to *DH* that they are open to sharing the broadcast rights with television channels.

BFC players take pay cut

Bengaluru FC players have taken a pay cut for the truncated season, confirmed the club's owner Parth Jindal.

Skipper Jemimah Rodrigues will hope to lead from the front against Gujarat Giants and guide Delhi Capitals to their fourth WPL final. PTI

Capitals eye fourth straight final

VADODARA, PTI: Runners-up in the first three editions, perennial bridesmaid Delhi Capitals will seek to make their fourth straight finals when they take on an ambitious Gujarat Giants side in the Women's Premier League Eliminator here on Tuesday.

One of the most consistent sides in the league's brief history, the Capitals once again navigated the league phase successfully to finish among the top three, making them the only team to qualify for the playoffs in all four seasons so far.

Their 2026 campaign, however, has been a mixed bag, marked by flashes of both dominance and inconsistency. They have won four matches while losing as many so far.

Delhi's bowling has been spearheaded by pacer Nandani Sharma, who has been particularly effective at the death, picking up the bulk of her 14 wickets in the final overs to keep the Capitals competitive in tight contests.

She has been well supported by left-arm spinner Shree Charani (14), while experienced South African all-rounder Marizanne Kapp (10) continues to lend control and reliability.

Tilak Varma

Tilak aces fitness test in warm-up game vs US

NAVI MUMBAI, PTI: Indian team management will heave a sigh of relief with Tilak Varma ticking all the boxes on his return to competitive cricket after a lower abdominal surgery as the 'A' team, comfortably defeated the United States of America by 38 runs in a high-scoring warm-up game here on Monday.

For the national selection committee, head coach Gautam Gambhir and skipper Suryakumar Yadav, the priority was to check Tilak's match-fitness having completed a three-week 'Return To Play' protocol at the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.

The stylish southpaw from Hyderabad scored 38 off 24 balls and in the process hit a couple of regal sixes off left-arm spin duo of Harmeet Singh and Nosthush Kenjige. Tilak took a special liking for Harmeet as he hit him for three boundaries.

While he batted for 24 deliveries what stood out was no apparent discomfort as he executed his shots. During fielding, he sprinted backwards to take a well judged catch to send back Saiteja Mukkamalla.

Brief scores: India A: 238/3 in 20 overs (Priyansh Arya 28, Narayan Jagadeesan 104, Tilak Varma 38, Ayush Badoni 60 n.o.) bt USA: 200 all out in 19.4 overs (Andries Gous 44, Sanjay Krishnamurthi 41, Shubham Ranjane 28, Harmeet Singh 25; Khaleel Ahmed 2-25, Ravi Bishnoi 3-37, Naman Dhir 2-6). **Result:** India A won by 38 runs.

India A squad: Ayush Badoni (c), Naman Dhir, Ashutosh Sharma, Priyansh Arya, N Jagadeesan (wk), Tilak Varma (only first match), Riyan Parag, Manav Suthar, Ashok Sharma, Urvil Patel (wk), Gurjapneet Singh, Vipraj Nigam, Ravi Bishnoi, Khaleel Ahmed, Mayank Yadav.

CRICKET T20 WORLD CUP

Pak's boycott not a principled move

By keeping option of playing India in knockouts open, PCB has exposed its duplicity

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Pakistan's latest position ahead of the T20 World Cup sounds tough on the surface, but scratch a little and the cracks show almost immediately. Refusing to face India in a group-stage match while leaving the door open to play the same opponents in the knockouts is not a principled stand. It is a convenient move, shaped more by posturing than conviction.

If the objection to playing India were truly about values or ethics, it would not come with conditions attached. The stage of the tournament does not change the identity of the opponent. A group match against India is no different in substance from a semifinal or a final. Yet, Pakistan's message is selective. Early games are unacceptable, but later games might be fine. That contradiction undermines the morality of any decision.

What this approach reflects is a desire to be seen taking a firm stand without fully committing to it. Pakistan wants to signal defiance, but by keeping the knockout option alive, they want to avoid the fallout of a total refusal. It is a balancing act at its worst.

There is also a clear regional angle at play. Of late, Bangladesh's relationship with India has strained, and Pakistan's stance perfectly aligns with the current mood across India's eastern border.

Some have pointed to previous instances of other nations' pullouts from 50-over World Cups in Sri Lanka (1987) and Zimbabwe (2003). Though there were political undertones to England's refusal to travel to Zimbabwe for their match, the official reason for their decision was security concerns. Pakistan are in no position to cite security concerns, having scheduled all their matches in Sri Lanka, the co-hosts of the event.

Pakistan's boycott of T20 World Cup against India could have serious financial implications for the Pakistan Cricket Board. AFP

There is also the financial leverage, which sits at the core of this entire issue. India versus Pakistan is cricket's biggest commercial asset. No other fixture comes close in terms of television ratings, sponsorship interest and overall buzz. Pakistan know this, as does the ICC. By threatening to remove itself from a guaranteed India clash in the group stage, Pakistan are effectively reminding the governing body of its economic importance.

That tactic might make sense from a negotiation standpoint, but it further exposes the lack of principle behind the move. This is not about refusing to play India at all costs. It is about applying pressure and trying to drive home its own importance to ICC's economic health which is largely dependent on the revenue generated by India.

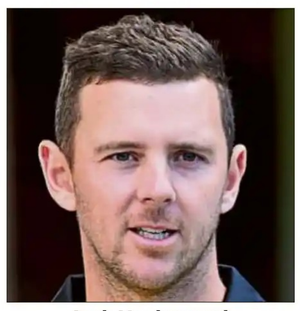
With no bilateral series between India and Pakistan, multi-national white-ball events are the only places where the archrivals meet; naturally, there is huge interest in these games, which the governing body looks to maximise by clubbing both nations in the same group for an assured stream of revenue. But, unwittingly, it was getting into a tangle that it finds itself now. It's time ICC looked beyond this marquee clash -- which feeds on manufactured frenzy and jingoism on either side of the border -- and unshackled itself from being blackmailed.

India, too, have not covered themselves in glory with their own missteps. The BCCI's handling of Mustafizur Rahman earlier in the season was as tactless as it was avoidable. By asking the Kolkata Knight Riders to release the pacer, suggesting security issues for the left-armer in the wake of strong anti-Bangla sentiments in India, they handed a readymade reason to their eastern neighbours to move their matches to a neutral venue.

The episode may seem separate, but it again stems from boards feeling ignored or mistreated, and the retaliation will have implications for all concerned. Some may suffer more, and others less, but the net loser is the game and the fans. A World Cup should be about excitement, not about threats and what-ifs.

Hazlewood to miss early part of T20 WC: selector Dodemaide

SYDNEY, PTI: Australian fast bowler Josh Hazlewood will not travel with the squad for the early part of its T20 World Cup matches in Sri Lanka as he continues his rehabilitation after recovering from an injury here, national selector Tony Dodemaide said on Monday.



Josh Hazlewood

The trio of Nathan Ellis, Tim David and Glenn Maxwell, however, have reached Colombo and will be joined the Australian squad on Tuesday for the upcoming ICC T20 showpiece, Dodemaide said.

Australia will play their four preliminary games in Colombo and Pallekele, starting February 11 against Ireland.

Hazlewood will remain in Sydney during the early part of the tournament, which begins on February 7, to continue his return to play program. Sean Abbott has joined the touring party as a travelling reserve.

Dodemaide said: "Nathan, Tim and Glenn have arrived in Colombo and we look forward to meeting up with them when we arrive from Pakistan.

"We felt with Josh it was more practical and beneficial for him to continue his rehabilitation at home in a familiar environment before travelling to Sri Lanka."

Hazlewood was ruled out of the 2025-26 Ashes series due to a lingering Achilles injury that occurred during his rehabilitation from a previous hamstring strain.

Dodemaide did not reveal the specifics of when exactly Hazlewood would be available for the tournament. Australia's preliminary engagements will end on February 20 and their other group rivals are Oman, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe.

Last week, seasoned pacer Pat Cummins was ruled out of the entire tournament due to a persistent back injury. He has been replaced in the 15-man squad by Ben Dwarshuis.

Dodemaide said Abbott is there as a backup for Ellis.

"With Nathan also completing his return to play we decided to bring Sean with us as fast bowling cover should anything come up at short notice," he said. "Sean is an accomplished and versatile international player who has experienced numerous World Cup campaigns."

PCB to follow govt advice in potential knockouts vs India

KARACHI, PTI: The Pakistan Cricket Board was on Monday tight-lipped about its government's decision to boycott the T20 World Cup game against India but a well-placed source conceded that it has no choice but to follow instructions coming from the top.

Amid the drama, the national team left for Colombo to play its other games in the showpiece starting February 7.

A top source in the PCB said the Board will follow government instructions in case another game against the arch-foes gets lined up during the knockout stage of the tournament.

"The board has also been notified by the government that the national team will not play against India on 15th February and forfeit points in the World Cup. As for the scenario where Pakistan might be required to play against India in the knockout stages, the board will follow any decision taken by the government at that time as well," the source explained.

Pakistan are scheduled to open their campaign against the Netherlands on February 7, followed by matches against USA on February 10 and Namibia on February 18 in case the boycott decision for the game against India is not taken back.

Pakistan's stunning decision to not play the February 15 match is being seen as an act of support for Bangladesh, who were shown the door after refusing to play in India citing security concerns.

A source close to the PCB said that the Board would convey its government's decision to the International Cricket Council on Monday.

The source said PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi had made it clear in his briefing to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif last month that the Board would stand by the government regardless of what the ICC says or does.

"As far as the PCB is concerned for a while now there has been a growing feeling that the ICC has not been just in its dealings with some of the other boards more recently with Bangladesh and one board cannot be allowed to run world cricket," the source said.

England make WC statement with series win in Sri Lanka

PALLEKELE (SRI LANKA), AFP: Dominant England completed a convincing six-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the second T20 international to wrap up the three-match series with a game to spare at Pallekele on Sunday.

The series, a warm-up for the upcoming T20 World Cup to be co-hosted by Sri Lanka and India, underlined why England remain among the contenders for the title.

Having edged the opener by 11 runs, the tourists produced another clinical display to take an unassailable 2-0 lead.

A rain interruption with England on 57 for two in 7.2 overs saw an original target of 190 revised to 168 in 17 overs under the DLS method.

At that stage, the hosts sensed an opening as their spinners tightened the screws and dragged England behind the required rate. However, Brook changed the complexion of the chase in the blink of an eye.

Brief scores: Sri Lanka 189/5 in 20 overs (Pathum Nissanka 34, Kamil Mishara 36, Kusal Mendis 32, Pavan Rathnayake 40, Charith Asalanka 228 n.o.; Jofra Archer 2-42) lt to England: 173/4 in 16.4 overs (Jos Buttler 39, Tom Banton 54 n.o., Harry Brook 36; Matheesha Pathirana 2-47). **Result:** England won by 6 wickets via the DLS method. **Series:** England lead three-match series 2-0. **PoM:** Tom Banton.

England's Tom Banton smashed 54 off 33 balls in the rain-affected match against Sri Lanka at the Pallekele International Cricket stadium in Kandy on Sunday night. AFP

De Silva dropped

Sri Lanka on Monday dropped Test captain Dhananjaya de Silva from their 15-man T20 World Cup squad led by Dasun Shanaka.

De Silva had been recalled for a three-match T20 international series against Pakistan early last month after an 18-month long absence and played the opening game against England in an ongoing series. But he was dropped for the second T20, while the final match is scheduled for Tuesday.

Sri Lanka squad: Dasun Shanaka (captain), Pathum Nissanka, Kamil Mishara, Kusal Mendis, Kamindu Mendis, Kusal Perera, Charith Asalanka, Janith Liyanage, Pavan Rathnayake, Wanindu Hasaranga, Dunith Wellalage, Maheesh Theekshana, Dushmantha Chameera, Matheesha Pathirana, Eshan Malinga.

T20 WORLD CUP: GROUP D PREVIEW

Fight for survival in the Group of Death

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

"Hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things, and no good thing ever dies," Andy Dufresne told Red in The Shawshank Redemption.

With another T20 World Cup on the horizon, there will be another burst of hope for South Africa. After suffering a killing blow in Barbados in 2024, the wounded finalists find themselves in the Group of Death, tangled up with New Zealand, Afghanistan, Canada and the UAE in Group D.

However, South Africa have immediate history to lean on, having come through tricky games in their run to the final in the Americas. While the campaign was uplifting, the joy was short-lived.

This time, their squad selection showed they prioritised potential over experience by picking Jason Smith and Kwena Maphaka.

The Proteas' batting armoury is well stacked with explosiveness and stability, comprising Quinton de Kock, Aiden Markram, David Miller and Dewald Brevis. The issue, however, will be their bowling. They have pedigree on paper, but they lack numbers to back it. While Kagiso Rabada's is a form issue, Lungi Ngidi has just worked his way back from a knee issue. However, Marco Jansen and Keshav Maharaj have been among the wickets and will need to complement each other to dust off the white-ball trophy cabinet.

New Zealand have been in the sub-continent for the last three weeks but have not had much joy playing white-ball cricket. However, they will have to rely on the experience gained and the heartbreak of the 2021 T20 World Cup final to inspire them to put up a spirited show.

While they have a week to provide the final touches working around injuries and player availability, the Kiwis will bank heavily on their spinners to spread their wings with three of their four group games scheduled on slow Chennai surfaces.

And this is where they will feel comfortable, as Mitchell Santner and Ish Sodhi boast an impressive 297 T20I wickets between them. Jacob Duffy will spearhead a well-conditioned pace attack. However, they might lose on Matt Henry and Lockie Ferguson due to paternity leaves.

The batting also looks healthy but they will have to bring their adaptability skills to win over the conditions. While Finn Allen and Tim Seifert's strong suit will be batting against pace, they will need to figure out a way to play Afghanistan's spin at Chepauk.

Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips and James Neesham are set to operate in the middle-order. While the side might not seem like title-contenders, New Zealand, like always, will look to spring up something special.

If the 2023 ODI World Cup was a statement tournament for Afghanistan, the 2024 T20 World Cup was a declaration that they enter competitions to compete and not just as pushovers.

While they failed to reach the semifinals at the 2025 Champions Trophy, they beat continental rivals Pakistan and Bangladesh on points and Sri Lanka on qualification.

Afghanistan are perfectly capable of progressing to the next stage, provided the batting rises to the occasion.

Their top and middle-order bank on an aggressive approach, sometimes at the expense of game sense, and that could come to haunt them in pressure situations.

However, their four-pronged spin attack will look to stifle the opposition with skipper Rashid Khan eyeing to spin history.

Record in T20 Internationals

	South Africa	New Zealand	Afghanistan	UAE	Canada
Matches	217	251	159	143	86
Won	116	127	96	77	48
Lost	97	103	60	65	34
No result	3	11	1	1	2

Nodirbek Abdusattorov

Abdusattorov wins Tata Steel Masters title

WIJK AAN ZEE (THE NETHERLANDS), PTI: Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan clinched the Tata Steel Masters title with a black-piece victory against out-of-form Arjun Erigaisi while world chess champion D Gukesh emerged as the best Indian with a joint eighth finish as the tournament concluded here on Monday.

Gukesh drew with Vincent Keymer of Germany in the final round to end as the top-performing Indian on 6.5 points. But his fifty per cent score was below par and the Indian ace slipped below the 2750 rating mark.

R Praggnanadhaa also drew the last round with Jorden van Foreest of the Netherlands to end on 5.5 points and there are some lessons to be learnt for the Indian if the performance here is any indication ahead of the Candidates tournament.

Erigaisi had the biggest deficit in terms of rating as he lost a whopping 29 points to find himself out of top 10 in world rankings in a while.

In fact, Gukesh is the only Indian player ranked at number 10 on the live rating list and much to the surprise of the chess buffs, there is no Indian above a 2750 ratings.

Solanke's scorpion kick stings City

LONDON, AFP: Dominic Solanke's breathtaking scorpion kick delivered a major blow to Manchester City's Premier League title bid as Tottenham fought back from two goals down to draw 2-2 on Sunday.

Pep Guardiola's side was cruising to victory after Rayan Cherki and Antoine Semenyo netted in the first half in north London.

However, Solanke reduced the deficit after the interval, then produced a candidate for goal of the season to haul Tottenham level.

The England striker's audacious finish was reminiscent of Olivier Giroud's famous acrobatic effort for Arsenal against Crystal Palace in 2017.

And it was Tottenham's bitter north London rivals who benefited the most from Solanke's moment of magic.

A section of Tottenham's fan base might not have been too disappointed if they had lost, given City's status as the only realistic hope of stopping Arsenal winning the title for the first time in 22 years. But Arsenal's 4-0 rout of Leeds on Saturday had left City with no margin for error and Pep Guardiola's second-placed side now trail the leaders by six points.

Result: Tottenham: 2 (Solanke 53rd, 70th) drew with Manchester City: 2 (Cherki 11th, Semenyo 44th).

Prabhav, Ryan put Karnataka in command

BENGALURU, DHNS: Centuries by Prabhav Pydah (137) and Ryan Tomar (134 n.o.) took Karnataka past 400 runs on the opening day of their latest match against Hyderabad in Vizianagaram on Monday.

Karnataka declared their innings at 402/3 in 85 overs with Samarth Suresh also contributing 63 runs.

In response, Hyderabad ended their day on 8/1 in three overs.

Brief scores: Karnataka: 402/3 decl in 85 overs (Pavandeep R Bharadakane 49, Samarth Suresh 63, Prabhav Pydah 137, Ryan Tomar 134 n.o.) vs Hyderabad: 8/1 in 3 overs.

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